

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1032**

**TITLE: Allocation of Reserves to Student Government for Service Learning and Newell Hall Upgrades**

**AUTHOR: Student Body President Cooper Brown**

**SPONSORS: Budget and Appropriations Chairwoman Elizabeth Hartzog and Budget and Appropriations Committee**

**AMOUNT: \$530,000.00**

Brown Center for Leadership & Service project descriptions listed below:

**Changemakers' Dialogue: \$30,000.00**

**Background:**

This Brown Center for Leadership & Service (BCLS) understands that dialogue is an opportunity to connect with others along lines of difference and aims to tap into participant's individual experiences and uncover the underlying interconnectedness and relationships within the UF community. The implementation of a new BCLS student dialogue program, elevating their Current Issues Dialogue Series, intends to reach campus-wide undergraduates and graduates.

The implementation of programs that bring diverse students together will enrich UF's community by encouraging an empathetic culture, a goal that supports students and UF's mission as the current #6 nationally ranked public university. Dialogue increases leadership skills that set up UF graduates for their future communities, including the workplace. UF has a continued need for spaces that recognize and legitimize unique students' identities in order to empower students to be better leaders, teammates, and listeners, even after graduation.

Among the current Top Ten Public Universities, 7/10 Institutions have a Dialogue Program.

**Intent:**

The new dialogue program intends to train leaders, which BCLS defines as all students who influence others, to facilitate courageous conversations and engage across lines of difference to build a stronger UF community. The program would be training civically minded leaders who take initiative in communication, social change, and personal development, influencing both UF and Gainesville communities. The proposed timeline would implement the program in 4 phases and created through ongoing assessment and updates to the dialogue models.

**Brown Center for Leadership & Service Community Engaged Grants: \$25,000.00**

**Background:**

BCLS Community Engaged Grants is a new initiative launching in 2021-2022. This servicelearning opportunity allows UF students to serve as a team lead for a project that addresses critical needs in the Gainesville community. Projects will be collaborative and engage students, community partners, staff, and/or faculty. All projects will be done in partnership with the community, founded in a mutually beneficial relationship. Grants will have a cyclical application cycle, and awarded prior to the semester when the project is implemented (March 15th, October 15th, June 15th).

\$25,000 will support 5 or more projects at a maximum of \$5,000 each. Each project may require varying level of funds and projects will be selected by a committee of community members through the Community Foundation of North Central Florida, the Office of Collaborative Initiatives at UF, and supporting staff/faculty. Funds will directly support project costs and expenses incurred by the student team.

**Intent:**

The intent of this project is to establish a variable credit course for participants, which layers broad service-learning curriculum, critical consciousness, reflection, and knowledge of root causes of community issues. Currently Projects for Peace grants are supported through the Davis Foundation with no ability to grow the program, increase student participation, or alter funding amounts to fit project needs. This program can be expanded in scope based on available funding, and capacity to oversee and support projects.

**Florida Alternative Breaks Trips: \$225,000.00 Background:**

A new funding model for Florida Alternative Breaks (FAB) would make FAB trips for 20212022 no cost to students. BCLS would revamp the program to engage students in different social issues and climate. The goal of this project is to utilize the Active Citizen Continuum to move students from being members of society to being an Active Citizens where the community becomes a priority in values and life choices. Students will gain a broader understanding on community development and engagement while supporting the needs of the community.

The BCLS will use the funds to diversify Alternative Break experiences and support local community partners during weekend service experience trips. If funded, the BCLS team will advertise all experiences at a significantly reduced cost to enhance accessibility and increase engagement in these service learning experiences. This will be for one year only.

Florida Alternative Breaks' vision is to create active citizens through a commitment to community service, leadership, and social change. This would be achieved through a focus on diversity & social justice, education, orientation, reorientation, and reflection.

**Intent:**

Florida Alternative Breaks provides UF students the opportunity to immerse themselves in a particular social issue with the goal of heightening social awareness through regional and

international trips during academic breaks. With the passion, knowledge, and relationships gained from their experiences, members will become life-long advocates for social justice in their communities. FAB supports the BCLS mission by empowering students to become active leaders that contribute to just, thriving communities to create positive change.

Potential location/Project Details:

- **Natural Disaster Relief: HOPE Panhandle, Panama City Beach, FL**
- **Sustainable Agriculture: 180 Degrees Farms, Sharpsburg, GA**
- **Children with Disabilities: Camp Boggy Creek, Eustis, FL**
- **Youth Advocacy: Carolina Youth Development & Winwood Farms, Charleston, SC**
- **Environmental Preservation: Everglades National Park, Homestead, FL**
- **Refugee Resettlement, Atlanta, GA**
- **P4H Global, Cap-Haitien, Haiti**
- **First Gen Youth Development: Pahokee Middle School, Belle Glade, FL**
- **Social Justice and Civic Engagement: Johnson Brinson Center, Madison, FL**
- **Ghana, Africa**
- **South Africa, Africa**

**Brown Center for Leadership & Service Passenger Vans: \$105,000.00**

**Background:**

The BCLS would purchase three 12-passenger vans for use toward service-learning trips and experiences. Vans would provide more access and availability for students to engage in servicelearning, which contributes to the mission of providing opportunities for students to contribute to a just, thriving global community through community-engaged learning.

Currently the BCLS must rent vans (if available) for local or regional service experiences or transportation is not provided at all. This limits students from participating limits the number of service sites available.

**Intent:**

Vans will be used for transportation to and from service sites, particularly in the Gainesville and Alachua County area. BCLS plans to provide more regular service opportunities in the local area,

and transportation has been prohibitive for some students in the past. These vans could also be used for some domestic FAB trips at various times throughout the year.

**Newell Hall Upgrades: \$145,000.00**

**Background:**

Newell Hall is a 24/7 learning commons that was designed by students and continues to be supported and staffed by students. After opening in 2017, students have consistently used the space to collaborate with one another, inspire and innovate with one another, and learn from one another. This project is to kickstart a regular maintenance and repair cycle to keep the building fresh and exciting for students for years to come.

Newell Hall is a commonly used study space for students. While this space was recently renovated, many furniture pieces have worn poorly, been broken, and/or are unused. By repairing the furniture and replacing it, the space will receive a much-needed refresh that encourages students to continue to utilize the space and feel safe and comfortable while completing academic tasks.

**Intent:**

Focusing on a single floor, this project will allow for a refreshed floor in Newell Hall, along with an opportunity to test the impact on utilization. The intent of this project is completion of renovations to the fourth floor. By starting with a single floor, this will allow Newell Hall to complete a floor annually and create a rotation so that flooring and furniture repairs are cyclical.

The funds would be allocated as follows:

Newell Hall upgrades: \$25,000.00 (Furniture Repairs), \$75,000.00 (Furniture Replacement) \$10,000.00 (Carpet and Adhesive Removal), \$8,000.00 (Repolish Concrete), \$12,000.00 (Match Concrete), \$15,000.00 (Non-construction costs).

*Proviso: This allocation is a one-time reserve transfer that will be available for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The projects are scheduled to reach completion prior to May 1, 2022.*