

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1127**TITLE:** Resolution Addressing the Need for Charging Stations in the Reitz Union**AUTHOR(S):** Senator Julia Seifer, Samantha Kinggard**SPONSORS:** Senator Monish Vijayaraghavan, Senator Owen Lekebusch, Senator Laurie Wang, Senator Amanda Lieber, Senator Saketh Damera, Member at Large Johnny Liu, Senator Ayesha Khuddus, Budget and Appropriations Chairman Blake Cox, Member at Large Isabel Ponce, Minority Party Leader Bronson Allemand

WHEREAS, the J. Wayne Reitz Union is a multifaceted hub of student life on campus, “enhanc[ing] the Gator student experience by creating purposeful, proactive, and unique opportunities for learning, leadership, and education” [1]. This space serves both academic and entertainment needs with its amenities, including but not limited to safe and diverse student spaces, food and printing services, the UF bookstore, and historical/artistic exhibits; and, **WHEREAS**, usage of resources and spaces within the J. Wayne Reitz Union is on an upward trend, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic and newly established status as a Top Five Public University; and,

WHEREAS, excluding the pandemic outlier from fiscal year 2020-2021, event reservation data illustrates this increasing trend over the past five years. The J. Wayne Reitz Union had 11,272 and 11,635 event reservations in the fiscal years 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 respectively. In fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, the J. Wayne Reitz Union saw 12,270 and 13,023 event reservations respectively [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has become increasingly reliant on technology usage in learning spaces, with reliance on Canvas for assignments, online/hybrid classes, digital note taking becoming more common, and the introduction of the PACE Program in 2015 [2]; and,

WHEREAS, such devices used to access online platforms require electronic charge, which is only offered in limited areas of the J. Wayne Reitz Union. This may prevent students from being able to learn with optimized efficiency, creating an inconvenience particularly for students who commute to campus or do not have regular access to chargers; and,

WHEREAS, the implementation of charging stations in the J. Wayne Reitz Union would be beneficial to students, helping the University of Florida keep up with the rising use of technology in the workplace, and further promoting equitable access to academic resources; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for mobile device charging stations in the J. Wayne Reitz Union.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the J. Wayne Reitz Union administration to take further steps to provide this resource for students.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Interim Provost Scott Angle, Chief Information Officer Elias Eldayrie, Senior Director of the Reitz Union Dwayne Isaacs, the Reitz Board of Managers, and the appropriate university departments responsible for implementing technological services.

[1] Fiscal Year 2025 Activity and Service Fee: J. Wayne Reitz Union Budget Proposal

[2] <https://admissions.ufl.edu/apply/freshman/pace/academics>


Oscar Santiago Perez
Senate President

8/2/23
Date