

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1029

TITLE: Resolution Calling for the Immediate Reversal of the Plans to Close and Demolish Maguire Village and University Village South (UVS) Graduate and Family Housing Facilities

AUTHOR(S): Senator Jonathan Stephens

SPONSORS: Minority Party Leader Gabriela Montes, Deputy Minority Party Leader Oscar Santiago Perez, Senator Grace Shoemaker, Senator Cole Hautamaki, Senator Connor Panish, Senator Evan Rafanan, Senator Navya Nair, Senator Joaquin Marcelino

WHEREAS, in December of 2020, the University of Florida Board of Trustees approved the Campus Master Plan that included the demolition of Maguire Village and University Village South, and subsequently in March of 2021, approved the Campus Development Agreement with Gainesville and Alachua County which still contained those same demolition plans [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Maguire Village and University Village South, better known as UVS, are two of the five dedicated graduate housing facilities under the terminology “Villages”; and,
WHEREAS, in 2021 the University of Florida Student Senate passed unanimously “*Resolution Condemning the Demolition of Maguire Village and University Village South (UVS) Graduate and Family Housing*” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, as of recently, the University of Florida has removed any mentions of Maguire Village and University Village South from digital webpages [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the residents and their supporters have made multiple attempts as of recently to fight for their homes as reflected by multiple media sources [4,5], with several attempts at this freedom of expression being forcefully opposed by UF’s Department of Housing and Residence Life [11]; and,

WHEREAS, At the November 2020 Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee meeting, the committee approved the following statement with the Campus Master Plan:

“Add a policy that prior to the demolition of graduate student housing at Maguire Village and University Village South, the university shall undertake and publish a thorough study of the impact of the loss of graduate student housing beds, efforts to mitigate those impacts, and the costs and benefits of the demolition and of alternatives to demolition, reflecting the input of critical stakeholders.” [6]; and,

WHEREAS, Vice-President of Business Affairs Curtis A. Reynolds agreed to the provisions mentioned in the previous whereas clause, but yet it was never added to the Campus Master Plan or other official UF policies [7]; and,

WHEREAS, as of currently, no policy has been upheld thus far from the committee's recommendations, and no explanation has been given; and,

WHEREAS, on September 20th, 2021, Raymer F. Maguire III - the grandson to the former President of the Student Body, former President of UF Alumni Association, and former President of the Florida Bar - wrote in a letter to the UF Community in dissent to the progression of the plans to close Maguire Village and University Village South [8]; and,

WHEREAS, on February 9th, 2023, former Director of ISS-University of Florida International Center sent in a letter expressing her concerns with the continuation of closures within the Maguire Village and University Village South [9]; and,

WHEREAS, as of 2023, the University of Florida's Six Core Values include Excellence, Discovery and Innovation, Inclusion, Freedom and Civility, Community, and Stewardship [10]; and,

WHEREAS, all students at the university benefit from the open space and amenities, such as the public pool, playgrounds, picnic areas, and welcoming community offered by Maguire Village and University Village South; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate condemns the continuation of this malevolent policy against the Maguire Village and University Village South residents; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate calls for the immediate reversal of such plans from proceeding in order to access options that will give residents the best opportunity for housing; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate calls on the immediate repairing and maintenance of all facilities within the Maguire and UVS facilities, alongside cooperation with the Mayors' Council on priorities within such efforts; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate calls for the UF Housing Department to immediately begin taking applications for new residents at Maguire Village and UVS and filling as many apartments as possible; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes how the University's recent policies that have harmed the Maguire Village and UVS residents has gone against most of the principles outlined within our Core Values; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida

Student Senate recognizes that the continuation of these inconsiderate and insensitive directives will only lead to the worsening of Graduate student experiences and investment; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate calls for the immediate creation of a committee to investigate and propose solutions to the concerns posed by the Mayors' Council, with the request for representation of residents within these facilities within these policies.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President Benjamin Sasse, Faculty Senate President Amanda Phalin, University Board of Trustees Chair Mori Hosseini, Student Campus Housing Committee Chair Dr. James Tyger, University of Florida Alumni Association President James Gadsby, Inter-Residence Hall Association President Justine Tryon, and Senior Director of UF Housing and Residence Tina Kuhlengel Horvath.


- [1] <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://trustees.ufl.edu/media/trusteesufledu/agendas/Boardand-Committee-Meeting-Materials---March-18-19,-2021.pdf&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1676655328790078&usg=AOvVaw3gyM3iaNrGg3sD2jHI1R60>
- [2] <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-1007Resolution-Conderning-the-Demolition-of-Maguire-Village-and-University-Village-SouthUVS-Graduate-and-Family-Housing.pdf&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1676655328791873&usg=AOvVaw30MNSXoonoLBDXN8FvGII2>
- [3] https://www.google.com/url?q=https://hsrmp.phhp.ufl.edu/admissions/student-life/housing3/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1676655328790469&usg=AOvVaw0zGSS_yr44wZxCuFT32Ds4
- [4] <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.alligator.org/article/2022/11/uf-coalitionbands-together-to-save-graduate-housing-complexes&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1676655328794353&usg=AOvVaw3BGXTySk1arRPCzbJLS2h>
- [5] <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.wcjb.com/2022/03/15/residents-maguireuniversity-villages-continuing-campaign-keep-their-homes/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1676655328794435&usg=AOvVaw1szs7iiQ8cbZE2oPCFbrgJ>
- [6] <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://facilities.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2021/05/Minutes-11032020-UFLUFPC.pdf&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1676655328792709&usg=AOvVaw3HbAnPLA4TOHlspDdKp57S>
- [7] <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://facilities.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/VPResponse-Letter-11032020.pdf&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1676655328793255&usg=AOvVaw2zLOCZ8sLYIdgYdJwLSkod>

[8] Addendum One: Letter from Raymer F. Maguire III

[9] Addendum Two: Anderson Maguire-UVS Letter 2023

[10] <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.ufl.edu/about/core-values/%23%3A~:text=%3DWe%2520strive%2520to%2520lead%2520with,deliver%2520the%2520highest%2520quality%2520performance&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1676655328795084&usg=AOvVaw3ewU8Cij07N2qnYySbyeOJ>

[11] <https://saveufgradhousing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Edinger-Letter-to-UF.pdf>

 4/19/23
Oscar Santiago Perez Date
Senate President