

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1215**

**TITLE: A Resolution Supporting the Improvement of Outreach to Graduate Students in Regard to Student Government Involvement**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Hunter Monson, Senator Anghelo Gangano**

**SPONSOR(S):**

**WHEREAS**, in the University of Florida Student Senate, graduate students, primarily professional students, historically have suffered from a lack of representation due to seat vacancy, specifically within the College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Pharmacy, & College of Dentistry; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of 2023, there was a total of 3,915 professional students & 16,017 graduate students to make a combined total of 19,932 students [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, from data recorded for the Spring 2024 apportionment, there were 1126 students from the College of Pharmacy, 654 students from the College of Veterinary Medicine, 1017 students from the College of Nursing, 878 students from the College of Medicine, 761 students from the College of Law, & 14,926 graduate students [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, until last week, the College of Medicine did not have a representative, and still, there are 8 vacant seats for graduate students, a vacant College of Veterinary Medicine seat, a vacant College of Dentistry Seat, & a vacant College of Pharmacy seat [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, proper representation for nearly one-third of the total student population will only foster greater inclusivity for a group of students who are historically not involved within student government; and,

**WHEREAS**, some universities, such as Yale University, have an undergraduate student government & graduate student government with theirs being called the Yale College Council & Graduate Student Assembly [4][5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, another example is Harvard University, where they have the Harvard Undergraduate Association & Harvard Graduate Council [6][7][8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Princeton University has its separate student governments called the Princeton Graduate Student Government & Princeton Undergraduate Student Government [9][10]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has its own form called the MIT Undergraduate Association & MIT Graduate Student Council [11][12]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Stanford's combination between its Undergraduate Senate & Graduate Student Council is called the Associated Students of Stanford University (ASSU) [13][14][15]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Connecticut has an entire separate Graduate Student Senate that employs specific graduate programs such as short-term emergency loans [16]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned universities' ability to give proper graduate representation is commendable, & in hopes of advancing the prestige of the University of Florida, initiatives must be made to greater involve graduate & professional students within its student government; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the lack of graduate representation within its student government; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that the current understanding of graduate students' needs is inadequate and is likely due to the scarcity of graduate students within student government & the lack of knowledge regarding student government being a method for the vocalization of such needs; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for greater outreach to its graduate students; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that in order to advance the prestige of the University of Florida, the voice of graduate students must be more completely heard; thus, increased graduate student involvement within the University of Florida Student Government is an essential step that needs to be made. *Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Associate Provost, Graduate Council Chair, and Dean of the University of Florida Graduate School Dr. Nicole Stedman, UF Graduate Student Council Representative Kevin Senior, Dean of UF International Center & Associate Provost Marta L. Wayne, Vice President for Student Life Heather White, Director of Campus Engagement & Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Life James Tyger, Graduate Assistants United Interim Co-President Jacob Fiala, Graduate Assistants United Co-President Eva Garcia Ferres.*

[1] <https://news.ufl.edu/media/newsufledu/documents/2023-06-28-UF-Fact-Sheet-update.pdf>

[2] [Reapportionment Calculations.xlsx](#)

[3] <https://sg.ufl.edu/branches/legislative/senate-roster/>

[4] <https://gsa.yale.edu/>

[5] <https://www.ycc.yale.edu/>

[6] <https://www.thehua.org/>

[7] <https://hgc.harvard.edu/>

[8] <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2022/4/1/uc-referendum-results-yes-wins/>

[9] <https://www.gsg.princeton.edu/>

[10] <https://usg.princeton.edu/>

[11] <https://ua.mit.edu/>

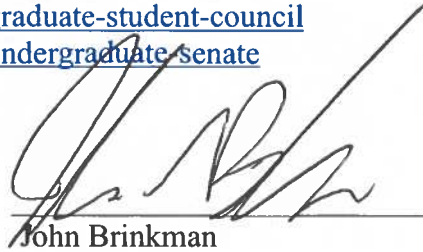
[12] <https://gsc.mit.edu/>

[13] <https://www.assu.stanford.edu/>

[14] <https://www.assu.stanford.edu/branches/graduate-student-council>

[15] <https://www.assu.stanford.edu/branches/undergraduate-senate>

[16] <https://gss.uconn.edu/>



John Brinkman  
Senate President

3/1/2024  
Date