

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1436**

**TITLE: Graduate, Union, and Institutional Development Enhancement (GUIDE):  
Section 1, Volume I: Graduate Students**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Austin Britton, Senator Cassandra Urbenz**

**SPONSOR(S): Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Hunter Monson,  
Senator Adriana Sela**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida is a top ten university [1] ; and,

**WHEREAS**, out of 3939 universities, UF is one of 146 labeled as a very high research activity university [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of Fall 2022 graduate students constitute 37.4 percent of the University of Florida student population [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, during the 2022-2023 school year, graduate students accounted for 40% of all degrees awarded at UF [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of Fall 2022, 18.3% of master's students and 38% of doctorate students were nonresidents [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of Fall 2022 the University of Florida employees 3644 graduate assistants [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, 1266 graduate assistants are dedicated to instruction (TAs)[4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, 2378 graduate assistants are dedicated to research (RAs) [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, TAs account for approximately 16% of all FTE dedicated to instruction at UF [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, RAs account for approximately 37.4% of all FTE dedicated to instruction at UF [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, stipends for graduate assistants at UF has fallen behind seven of the top ten public schools, even when adjusted for cost of living [6-11]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the real minimum stipend for graduate assistants has decreased since 2017 when adjusted for inflation [12]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the graduate health insurance, GatorGradCare, does not include vision insurance [13]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the graduate health insurance, GatorGradCare, has extremely limited dental care [13]; and,

**WHEREAS**, graduate applying for graduate and family housing have faced rising prices, demolitions of facilities, and years long wait times [14-15]; and,

**WHEREAS**, within graduate and family housing, graduates have been subjected to infantilizing rules, such as the banning of pets and the outlawing of sharing apartments with non-family members [14]; and,

**WHEREAS**, graduate students are commonly overworked, and face daily stressors that negatively impact mental health [16-17] ; and,

**WHEREAS**, statewide legislation and policy addressing higher education have negatively affected graduate students by targeting academic freedom, collective bargaining, and international students [18-19]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate supports graduate students; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the current reliance on graduate students at the University of Florida; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate respects and appreciates the sacrifices of graduate students; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon UF to address a deflating graduate stipend; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon UF to improve upon existing graduate healthcare; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon UF to address issues within graduate and family housing; and,


**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon UF to strive to improve graduate mental health; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon UF to protect graduate students and institutions from detrimental state legislature; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED,** that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon the University of Florida to increase the benefits available to graduate students consummate with the university's reliance on these workers.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to UF-GAU Co-Presidents Eva Garcia-Ferres and Cassandra “Cassie” Urbenz, UFF-UF President Meera Sitharam, Chief Bargainer Patrick Keegan, Chair of the UFBOT Morteza “Mori” Hosseini, and Student Body President John Brinkman.*

- [1] <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/top-public>
- [2] <https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/institution/university-of-florida/>
- [3] <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/university-of-florida-1535/student-life>
- [4] <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=university+of+florida&s=all&id=134130>
- [5] <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/facts/diversity/>
- [6] <https://uaw2865.org/contract/salary-scales>
- [7] <https://www.geo3550.org/>
- [8] <https://gradschool.unc.edu/funding/stipends/>
- [9] <https://gradstudies.virginia.edu/graduate-stipend-task-force-final-report>
- [10] <https://www.underpaidatut.org/home>
- [11] [https://onesource.uga.edu/news/grad\\_assistant\\_increases\\_july\\_2024/](https://onesource.uga.edu/news/grad_assistant_increases_july_2024/)
- [12] <https://www.calculator.net/inflation-calculator.html>
- [13] <https://gatorcare.org/gatorgradcare/#2024>
- [14] <https://housing.ufl.edu/living-options/?housing-type=family-housing>
- [15] <https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SSB-2023-1029-Resolution-Calling-for-the-Immediate-Reversal-of-the-Plans-to-Close-and-Demolish-Maguire-Village-and-University-Vi.pdf>
- [16] [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jcop.22769?casa\\_token=T22EWf6XwKEA AAAA%3ADOyFFdfQMiBFBNrrDJ8kGZe-c8U17fvXsm3ieVluFigI2O9xkhRi7D1LZ2aDi1rwubkugI3san9ol8](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jcop.22769?casa_token=T22EWf6XwKEA AAAA%3ADOyFFdfQMiBFBNrrDJ8kGZe-c8U17fvXsm3ieVluFigI2O9xkhRi7D1LZ2aDi1rwubkugI3san9ol8)
- [17] [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/piq.21365?casa\\_token=aHvf-WV0fc0AAAAA:T1F9nLWjBf\\_SXE4eInMMQ6\\_L1Ns1ttyF3i72N74tsjEoeqLVjpR66x6D21xFABsdVK\\_OrYkcetr-bs8](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/piq.21365?casa_token=aHvf-WV0fc0AAAAA:T1F9nLWjBf_SXE4eInMMQ6_L1Ns1ttyF3i72N74tsjEoeqLVjpR66x6D21xFABsdVK_OrYkcetr-bs8)
- [18] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/256>
- [19] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/266>
- [20] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/7>

 7/16/24

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Monish Vijayaraghavan Date  
Senate President