

## STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1515

### **TITLE: Guarantee Of Gators Giving Laboratory Equipment (GOGGLE) Resolution**

**AUTHOR(S): Health Caucus Chair Daniel Weinberger, Senator Isabella Berger, Senator Joshua Yaciuk, Senator Maxim Thellab, Senator Megan McGuire, Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer, and Senate President Monish Vijayaraghavan**

**SPONSORS: Student Senate Health Caucus Members**

**WHEREAS**, at the University of Florida, Chemistry Lab courses such as CH2045L, CHM2046L, and CHM2211L, require safety goggles to participate in every class session [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, this procedure is strictly enforced, as the UF Lab Manual notes that “eye protection shall be worn at all times when working with chemical, biological or radiological substances” [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the UF bookstore offers just three available options for laboratory approved goggles, with an average cost of \$27.99, and no fee relief available for low-income students [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the laboratory goggles does not fall under the designation of tuition and fees at the University of Florida, meaning students are responsible for purchasing this equipment for personal use, although some students may face financial constraints which potentially limit their ability to participate in mandatory laboratory coursework [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Faculty Services is working to expand the plastics recycling program, however, there is no concentrated and semesterly effort to recycle laboratory materials and promote sustainability within science departments on campus [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, UC Davis launched a pilot program through the reuse of lab coats and goggles. Following the spring semester- students dropped off lab coats and goggles in one of several collection bins located throughout campus. The program was in collaboration with the Chemistry Department, Student Housing & Dining Services, The UC Davis Bookstore, and The UC Davis Sustainability. The drive reduced waste and cost effective solutions for students [6]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate and Student Senate Health Caucus recognize the need for a laboratory safety goggle donation drive and distribution service; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that through outreach with laboratory directors, chemistry professors, and other faculty along with student organizations, goggle collection will be facilitated at the end and distributed at the beginning of the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED**, the University of Florida Student Senate and Student Senate Health Caucus support the implementation of the GOGGLE initiative.

*Proviso: The authors of this bill would like to recognize Health Caucus Vice Chair Emeritus Finley Gibbons in aiding in the creation of the bill. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida's General Chemistry Laboratory Director Melanie Vega, General Chemistry Laboratory Manager Candace Biggerstaff, General Chemistry Assistant Laboratory Manager Jessica Webb, Organic Chemistry Laboratory Director Tammy Davidson, and Environmental Health and Safety Lab Safety Program Manager Cindy Mercado.*

[1] <https://www.chem.ufl.edu/syllabi/>

[2] <https://webfiles.ehs.ufl.edu/labsafe.pdf>

[3] <https://www.bkstr.com/floridastore/search/keyword/safety%2520glasses%252C%2520over-the-glass%252C>

[4] <https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/types-of-aid/bright-futures/florida-bright-futures-program-details/>

[5] <https://www.facilitieservices.ufl.edu/departments/finance/recycling/recycling-guide/plastic-items/>

[6] <https://sustainability.ucdavis.edu/news/pilot-program-lab-coat-and-goggle-reuse-launched>