

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1517

TITLE: Resolution Addressing Bus Stop Seating Around Campus

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SPONSORS: Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer

WHEREAS, the University of Florida promotes a community where the environment helps off-campus students feel a sense of belonging, especially to a campus, city, and culture in which they may be entirely new [1]; and,

WHEREAS, a significant amount of UF students live off-campus, about 78%, and many of these students do take the bus system [7] ; and,

WHEREAS, providing seating at all bus stops will ensure a comfortable experience for all students using public transportation to and from campus [2][3]; and,

WHEREAS, the weather in Florida may negatively impact the health of many students, especially while waiting 20 to 40 minutes for the bus to arrive [4][5]; and,

WHEREAS, the availability of seating at bus stops can enhance the overall experience of the bus system, primarily when waiting for the bus for off-campus students [2]; and,

WHEREAS, providing seating at bus stops has been proven to reduce the risk of heat strokes and other tragic outcomes like death caused by extreme heat temperatures [6]; and,

WHEREAS, providing seating at all bus stops will create a safe environment for students with both visible and invisible disabilities when using the bus system, this ensures that those with physical disabilities, such as mobility impairments, have a comfortable place to rest while waiting for the bus. Additionally, students with invisible disabilities, such as chronic pain, fatigue, or anxiety, will benefit from having a designated place to sit, reducing physical strain and stress [3]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of community and inclusion for our off-campus students cannot be overstated.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes there is a need for seating at all bus stops around campus to enhance the experience for students.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the University Administration, along with all relevant parties, ensure that off-campus students feel a sense of belonging on campus by providing them with the necessary procedures.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Transportation and Parking Services Senior Director William MacDonald

[1] <https://offcampus.ufl.edu/about/mission/>

[2] <https://www.handi-hut.com/8-ways-to-improve-the-bus-stop-experience/>

[3] <https://www.transit.dot.gov/are-bus-stops-and-other-transportation-facilities-required-provide-bench-seating#:~:text=Research%20%26%20Innovation-.Are%20bus%20stops%20and%20other%20transportation%20facilities%20required%20to%20provide,stops%20or%20at%20transportation%20facilities.>

[4] <https://health.wusf.usf.edu/health-news-florida/2023-08-15/how-deadly-is-florida-heat-experts-say-official-numbers-dont-show-the-whole-picture>

[5] <https://go-rtts.com/route038-the-hub-to-gainesville-place/>

[6]<https://www.ready.gov/heat#:~:text=Extreme%20heat%20is%20a%20period,which%20can%20lead%20to%20death>.

[7]<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/university-of-florida-1535/student-life#:~:text=University%20of%20Florida%20has%20a,of%20students%20live%20off%20campus>.