

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1730

TITLE: Resolution for Continuous Flex Bucks Rollover

AUTHOR(S): Minority Party Leader Max Banach, Senator Maximo Toledo

SPONSOR(S): University Singers President Michael Lim, Senator Anna Huber, Senator Lucas Nadeau, Senator Modupeola Lawal, Senator Anusha Chaudhary, Senator Kayla Goldstein, Senator Austin Britton, Senator Danielle Loftis, Senator Antonio Hendricks, Senator Fahim Islam, Senator Gabriela Prieto, Majority Party Leader Maya Idiculla, Deputy Majority Party Leader Cole Bennett, Senator Sara Rodriguez, Senator Krystal Felix, Senator Joshua Yaciuk, Senator Aleah Henley, Senator Arshan Falasiri, Senator David Favors, Senator Abigail Melamed, Senator Ava Rathet, Senator Roman Quattrocchi, Senator Danielle Collins, Senator Rafeh Khan, Senator Raylynn Adcock, Senator Ella Furman, Senator Catherine Isakson

WHEREAS, the University of Florida (UF) is committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive campus environment for its students by promoting flexible and accessible dining options for all students [1]; and,

WHEREAS, UF Business Services is committed to “providing essential services that promote student success and provide benefit to the campus community” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, UF Business Services has commendably introduced a rollover of unused flex bucks “from Summer A to Summer B to Fall to Spring,” contingent upon continuous enrollment in a meal plan, effective Summer A 2024 [3]; and,

WHEREAS, previously, unused flex bucks were forfeited at the end of the fall semester, making the current rollover policy from fall to spring a positive step toward enhancing financial flexibility for students; and,

WHEREAS, the current policy still results in the forfeiture of unused flex bucks at the end of the spring semester, should a student not enroll in the following semester’s meal plan [3]; and,

WHEREAS, under the current policy, UF Business Services currently remands to their account all unused FLEX dollars at the end of the spring term; and,

WHEREAS, it has previously been proposed that the remanded dollars be donated to the Field and Fork Pantry to aid student food insecurity; and,

WHEREAS, peer universities, such as Florida State University, have adopted even more flexible rollover policies that permit unused dining dollars to “roll over each semester until graduation, or until the student departs from the university” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the financial burden of forfeiting unused flex bucks at the end of each spring semester is detrimental to students who have invested in meal plans, with flex bucks options ranging from \$250-720 depending on selected on campus or commuter meal plan, but cannot carry their funds forward beyond spring [5]; and,

WHEREAS, unused flex bucks could benefit students by rolling over into future semesters, thereby reducing unnecessary financial waste and supporting UF’s commitment to student retention [6]; and,

WHEREAS, the forfeiture of unused flex bucks at the end of the spring semester is contrary to UF’s express goal of “financial stability . . . [to] enable academic and research excellence” and commitment “to strong financial management for our students” [7][8]; and,

WHEREAS, extending the rollover policy for flex bucks beyond each Spring semester and without the requirement of continuous meal plan enrollment promotes financial responsibility and long-term cost-saving measures for students; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate requests Business Services conduct an internal review of flex bucks forfeiture rates at the end of each spring semester to assess the financial impact on students and make such data publicly available; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate calls for an extension of the rollover policy to allow FLEX bucks to roll over from semester to semester without requiring continuous meal plan enrollment, thereby ensuring equitable access to dining funds; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate urges UF Business Services to consider allowing unused flex bucks to roll over indefinitely to better align with UF’s core values; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate urges UF Business Services to consider giving students the option to donate a portion or all of unused flex bucks to be donated to the Field and Fork Pantry to aid student food insecurity; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate advocates for clear and transparent communication to students regarding any updates or changes to the rollover policy, such as the most recent rollover change in Summer A 2024, ensuring that students are well-informed about how their flex bucks are managed [3]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate recognizes the importance of preserving student resources and encourages the administration to explore

mechanisms allowing flex bucks to carry over to the next semester, even if the student is not currently enrolled in a meal plan; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate proposes an evaluation of other peer institutions' dining programs to identify best practices in meal plan flexibility and fund rollover policies; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate urges UF Business Services to adopt a policy that ensures unused flex bucks can be carried over from the Spring into Summer semesters, even when the student is not signed up for a meal plan, recognizing many students who remain in the Gainesville area for internships or summer coursework.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Taylor Jantz, Assistant vice President of Financial Analysis and Budget George Kolb, Vice President for Business Services Eddie Daniels, and Director of Food and Beverage Services (Business Services) Matt Mueller.

[1]<https://www.ufl.edu/about/core-values/#el-d766ec48>

[2]<https://businessservices.ufl.edu/about/>

[3]<https://businessservices.ufl.edu/2024-2025-terms-conditions/>

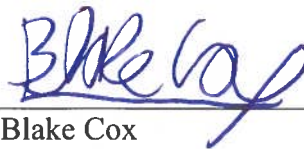
[4]<http://seminoledining.campusdish.com/en/mealplans/mealplans101/#:~:text=Will%20my%20Dining%20Dollars%20Expire,student%20departs%20from%20the%20university.>

[5]<https://my.bsd.ufl.edu/dining/signup/2248>

[6]<https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/about/>

[7]<https://cfo.ufl.edu/#:~:text=We%20strive%20to%20create%20an,and%20serve%20our%20community%20effectively.>

[8]<https://news.ufl.edu/2024/08/sp-rating/>



Blake Cox
Senate President

11/14/24
Date