

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1004**

**TITLE: Resolution Advocating for a Peer Program in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences**

**AUTHORS: Senator Raylynn Adcock and Senator Ashlee Thomas**

**SPONSORS:**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) is known for offering a world of possibilities in which students learn from the top minds as well as offering many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills through various extracurricular activities, events, and programs [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, a resolution advocating for a peer program in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences can have many positive benefits such as peer support, academic support, building a sense of community in CALs, and helping transfer students achieve better outcomes [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, research shows that students who transfer from a 2-year college to a 4-year university experience numerous challenges not faced by non-transfer students [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, additional research shows that students' attitudes are particularly susceptible to the influence of peers and many of the attitudes of interest to those who study the effects of education are attitudes firmly rooted in group membership [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, at other universities, similar initiatives have reaped positive benefits for students based on their engagement and achievement such as the Aggie Connections at UC Davis [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, similar enterprises at Cornell University have enhanced student retention, academic success, and career preparedness through the establishment of a successful peer mentorship programs within its College of Agriculture and Life Sciences [5]; and

**WHEREAS**, other programs, such as the Business Undergraduate Mentorship Program and Career and Peer Mentors at Warrington, have already been established at the University of Florida, demonstrating their effectiveness and benefits for students [6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of this initiative is in line with the university's commitment to promoting academic achievement and with the CALS mission of delivering unsurpassed educational programs that prepare students to address the world's critical challenges and to their values of integrity, diversity, collaboration, and service [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, collaboration with CALS at UF and their affiliated organizations such as CALS Council, would provide valuable insights, resources, and expertise to establish and enhance a peer program within CALS that boosts partnership and membership [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in order to see this initiative come to life, action should be taken quickly to ensure this program is in place for the beginning of this academic year; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the UF Student Senate recognizes the importance of this initiative to establish a Peer Mentorship Program in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and encourages CALS to allocate resources and the organization for its initiation.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the UF Student Senate encourages CALS to allocate resources and the organization for its initiation.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Elaine Turner, the University of Florida Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, and the University of Florida Mental Health Counselor of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Philip Daniel.*

[1] <https://cals.ufl.edu/>

[2] <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11044626/>

[3] <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/00221546.1998.11775130>

[4] <https://opportunity.ucdavis.edu/programs/aggie-connect/mentors>

[5] <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2020/09/cals-peer-mentors-support-new-first-generation-students>

[6] <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/student-resources/peermentorworkshop>

[7] <https://cals.ufl.edu/about/missionvisionvalues/>

[8] <https://cals.ufl.edu/getinvolved/calscouncil/>