

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1054

TITLE: Resolution Calling for the Addition of Call Pods at UF Campus

AUTHOR(S): Graduate Senator AJ Ceylan, Change Caucus Leader Max Banach

SPONSORS: Graduate Senator Modupeola Lawal, Senator Andrew Larsen, Senator Cielo Hughes, Senator Angela Liang, Graduate Senator Antonio Hendricks

WHEREAS, the University of Florida (UF) is committed to providing a safe, welcoming community for all students, as stated in its core values [1]; and,

WHEREAS, students frequently require private spaces to conduct remote interviews, virtual meetings, and personal phone calls without fear of disruption or lack of privacy; and,

WHEREAS, many existing common areas within UF libraries and the Reitz Union are communal, limiting students' ability to engage in confidential or professional conversations; and,

WHEREAS, students have expressed a direct need for designated soundproof call pods to Student Government as a means of improving accessibility to quiet, enclosed spaces for sensitive phone calls and virtual communication; and,

WHEREAS, soundproof call pods are commonly implemented in academic institutions and corporate settings to provide students and professionals with a private, quiet, and distraction-free environment; and,

WHEREAS, peer institutions such as the University of Central Florida (UCF) have installed "sound-insulated booths . . . across all five floors of the library, providing students with a dedicated space for phone calls, short online meetings, or simply a quiet moment for focused thinking" with "15 booths, five . . . designed for standing use, while the remaining ten have a small bench for sitting" while also being "equipped with user-friendly features, including easily accessible dual-powered USB-A and USB-C ports, automatic in-booth lights for subtle illumination, and a red occupancy light on the exterior to indicate when the booth is in use" [1]; and,

WHEREAS, other peer institutions such as the University of Connecticut (UConn) have installed multiple "Babbidge Booths" to serve as first-come first-serve "phone booth-style free-standing pods that are mostly soundproof" with 4 booths on the most common floors up to 1 booth on the quiet floor [2]; and,

WHEREAS, Marston Science Library is centrally located on campus and is one of the most frequented study areas for students alongside being the library with the highest capacity, making it an ideal location for the installation of a call pod [3][4]; and,

WHEREAS, the Reitz Union serves as UF’s “student hub” by “providing essential services, meeting spaces, and social areas” and would benefit from an accessible call pod for students needing private phone or video call spaces [5]; and,

WHEREAS, these call pods would be free to use for all UF students, with a recommended maximum occupancy time of 30 minutes to ensure fair access and availability; and,

WHEREAS, the potential responsibility for maintaining the call pod in the Reitz Union would fall under Reitz Union administration, while the UF Library staff could oversee the maintenance of the pod in Marston Science Library; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate formally supports the procurement and installation of soundproof call pods in Marston Science Library and the Reitz Union, with a later full-implementation suggestion of multiple pods per floor after first procuring the pods for a preliminary usage study.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Student Senate encourages the Reitz Union and UF Libraries to collaborate with Student Government to implement this initiative effectively and ensure accessibility for all students.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the Student Senate encourages UF to prioritize the availability of private, soundproof spaces in future infrastructure and renovation plans to support student needs.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Reitz Union Board of Managers Chair Maya Idiculla, Reitz Union Ex-Officio Dwayne Issacs, Ex-Officio Matt Mueller, and UF Libraries Senior Associate Dean of Scholarly Resources & Services Patrick Reakes.

[1] - <https://library.ucf.edu/news/new-quiet-booths/>

[2] - <https://faq.lib.uconn.edu/questions/21131>

[3] - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/dRfQtJGb3TmZK6yJ9>

[4] - <https://www.uflib.ufl.edu/status/>

[5] - <https://union.ufl.edu/>