



Student Senate

3000 J. Wayne Reitz Union  
PO Box 118505  
Gainesville, FL 32611  
352-392-1665

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1051**

**TITLE: Resolution to Support the Health Fee Increase**

**AUTHOR(S): Student Body President John Brinkman, Student Body Vice President Laura Thomas, Student Body Treasurer Saketh Damera, Senate President Blake Cox**

**SPONSOR(S): Graduate Student Council President Kevin Senior, Medical Graduate Student Organization President Tiffany Nelson, Senate President Pro-Tempore Julia Seifer, Judiciary Committee Chairman Aaron Rubaii, Majority Party Leader Maya Idiculla, Senator Abigail Melamed, Senator Noor Golesorkhi, Senator Priya Majethia, Senator Molly Murphy, Senator Dylan Cannella, Senator Madelyn Karmalek, Senator Ava Rathet, Senator Rasika Sriram, Senator Caroline Botts, Senator Kevin Orbegoso, Senator Jordan Antevy, Senator Ella Furman, Senator Andrew Sabadash, Member at Large Aleah Henley, Member at Large Mia Filoramo, Senator Josh Yachuik, Senator Tristan Khajavi, Senator Maddie Seifer, Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Aditi Sarkar, Senator Jordan Levitt, Senator Lexi Bazen, Senator Matthew Bravo, Senator Tyler Schoeberlin, Senator LJ Bryan, Senator Freddi Rappoport, Senator Caroline Schapansky, Senator Lexie Trower, Senator Anthony Boullousa, Senator Jack Gregg, Senator Sofia Varon, Senator Connor Mcinnis, Senator Gabi Prieto, Senator Cole Bennett, Senator Marco Salvador, Information and Communication Committee Chairwoman Krystal Felix, Senator Arshan Falasiri, Senator Katelyn Zervedokus, Senator Kate Mcnamara, Senator Rachel Krutchik, Senator Caleb Archelus, Senator Anjani Sharma, Senator Raylynn Adcock, Senator Anjali Sethi, Senator Josh Johnson, Senator Jocelyn Riley, Senator Marian Enriquez, Senator Sara Rodriguez, Senator Nicole Gigliotti, Senator Natalie Ewbank, Senator Emma Fullerton, Senator Emma Jabbour, Senator Rhyann Tappan, Rules and Ethics Committee Chairwoman Catherine Isakson, Deputy Majority Party Leader Rafeh Khan, and Senator Kate Finfrock**

**WHEREAS**, three in five college students report mental health challenges which have impacted their success in college, 73% of college students report they are more likely to graduate due to the mental health support services which are offered by their university, and 32% of non-completers named mental health issues as a contributing factor for leaving college [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, our student representatives on the Local Fee Committee approved a proposed increase of the Health Fee of \$1.47 per credit hour in Fall 2024; and,

**WHEREAS**, the additional funds would support and expand three areas of campus that contain mental health support services, including addressing urgent needs in crisis response and disability services; and,

**WHEREAS**, the first area the funds would support is Campus Assistance and Resources for Empowerment (CARE) which encompasses the Collegiate Veterans Success Center and Case Management Services, and is designed to facilitate achievement of students' academic and personal success and to assist with basic needs [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the second area the funds would support is the Counseling & Wellness Center, which supports students by providing them with counseling services and crisis support [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the third area the funds would support is the Disability Resource Center, which works with over 7,500 Gators with disabilities and engages with faculty and staff to make the University of Florida an accessible campus community [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the students of the University of Florida and the Student Senate of the University of Florida have long focused on mental health topics and how it impacts students [5][6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, a dollar today can only buy 76.37% of what it could a decade ago due to inflation [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Health Fee has not increased in the last 10 years although the mental health needs of the student body have increased significantly during that time; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are countless testimonials of college students who experience unexpected events while balancing academics and personal life, and areas like CARE have historically stepped in to provide support - for example a student whose home tragically burned down, who then learned they were expecting their first child shortly thereafter, or a student who was hurt in an accident on their scooter, or a student who experienced a medical emergency in their first semester; and,

**WHEREAS**, CARE ensured each student received critical resources and guidance to remain active and on track in their academics; and,

**WHEREAS**, services like the Counseling and Wellness Center, Disability Resource Center and CARE each contribute to supporting Gators on their timely path to graduation; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that an increase to the Health Fee is necessary to meet the needs of UF students, and that the University of Florida Student Senate hereby supports the proposed Health Fee increase of \$1.47 per credit hour.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate calls on the University of Florida Board of Trustees to approve the Health Fee increase of \$1.47 per credit hour at the March 27, 2025 meeting.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida Board of Trustees Chairman Mori Hosseini, University of Florida President Kent Fuchs, and Vice President for Student Life Heather White.*

- [1] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/health-wellness/2025/01/14/mental-health-services-can-help-keep-students-track>
- [2] [https://dso.ufl.edu/areas\\_services/care/](https://dso.ufl.edu/areas_services/care/)
- [3] <https://counseling.ufl.edu/services/guide-to-services/>
- [4] <https://disability.ufl.edu/about-us/>
- [5] <https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-1021-Resolution-Calling-for-Increased-Access-to-Mental-Health-Resources-for-Students-with-Physical-Disabilities.pdf>
- [6] <https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/SSB-2025-1022-Resolution-Advocating-for-an-Increase-in-Resources-Aimed-at-Male-Mental-Health-at-the-University-of-Florida.pdf>
- [7] <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>
- [8] [https://www.salliemae.com/content/dam/slm/writtencontent/Research/Completion\\_Research/Completion\\_Research\\_Study.pdf?utm\\_source=Iterable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=campaign\\_4564384\\_nl\\_The-Edge\\_date\\_20220629&cid=ed&source=ams&sourceid=](https://www.salliemae.com/content/dam/slm/writtencontent/Research/Completion_Research/Completion_Research_Study.pdf?utm_source=Iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_4564384_nl_The-Edge_date_20220629&cid=ed&source=ams&sourceid=)

*Blake Cox*

2/24/2025 | 10:41 AM EST

---

Blake Cox  
Senate President

Date