

Introduced By: Senator Arianna Carter
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Senator Sebastian Quiroga
SBA Chair Hameed
Contact: sga_grst2@ucf.edu
First Reading: November 2, 2023
Committee Action: Passed 12-0-1
Second Reading: November 30, 2023;
Passed 37-0-0
Third Reading: November 30, 2023
Final Vote: Passed 34-0-1

**University of Central Florida
Fifty-Fifth Student Body Senate
Resolution 55-12**

[Resolution to Advocate for Housing for Graduate Students at the University of Central Florida]

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student, and university affairs;

WHEREAS, Article 2.05(C) of the Student Body Constitution states that the Student Body Senate shall express the will and sentiments of the Student Body Senate through legislation;

WHEREAS, In 2022-2023, 68,422 students were enrolled at the University of Central Florida (UCF);

WHEREAS, Of these 68,442 students enrolled, 9,210 were graduate students;

WHEREAS, In 2022-2023, UCF offered 12,245 spaces in on-campus and affiliated housing to students whom live on and in the Orlando Main Campus, UCF Downtown at UnionWest, Rosen College Apartments, Sorority and Fraternity Housing, NorthView, the Pointe, etc.;

WHEREAS, Funding for graduate students can vary depending on the degree type, such as Masters and Doctoral programs, with funding varying within the specific program of study;

WHEREAS, Other Universities in Florida, such as Florida International University, provide specific housing for graduate students on and off campus, with fully furnished apartments available to graduate students, allowing for a community of graduate students to be formed on and off campus;

WHEREAS, Graduate students only receive a certain amount in a stipend depending on their enrollment status;

WHEREAS, The minimum amount full time master's students can receive is \$15,000 annually and the minimum amount part time master's students can receive is \$7,500. This amount is \$5,000 for in a single semester for full time master's students and \$2,500 for part-time master's students;

WHEREAS, The minimum amount full time doctoral students can receive is \$18,000 and the minimum part-time doctoral students can receive is \$9,000. This amount is \$6,000 in a single semester for full-time doctoral students and \$3,000 for part-time doctoral students;

WHEREAS, These amounts are much lower in a single summer semester ranging from \$1,875 to \$3,750 for masters students and \$2,250 to \$4,500 for doctoral students;

WHEREAS, According to the Waller, Weeks, and Johnson Rental Index report by the Florida Atlantic University Real Estate Initiative, Florida Gulf Coast University's Lucas Institute for Real Estate Development & Finance, and the Alabama Center of Real Estate at the University of Alabama, Orlando has experienced a 2.33% increase in rents and the average rent was \$2,087.16 as of August 2023;

WHEREAS, According to the UCF Housing Website, UCF housing on-campus is prioritized for incoming first-year undergraduate students, and other students rely on the lottery system, with rising sophomores receiving priority;

WHEREAS, Incoming international graduate students are in need of housing in the UCF area and are often at a disadvantage compared to graduate students located within the state of Florida and the United States.

WHEREAS, Graduate students may have dependents, partners, and spouses to provide shelter for;

WHEREAS, We recognize UCF's College of Graduate Studies has sent a housing survey to graduate students to emphasize the need for on-campus graduate student housing; and,

WHEREAS, We stand with UCF's College of Graduate Studies sentiment to provide support for graduate students with housing.


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, We urge UCF's administration to recognize housing needs to be available for graduate students off campus within a 10 mile radius and on campus and implement a plan to provide it;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, These housing options must include an equitable priority to domestic and international graduate students;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, We urge UCF to provide this support for future and current graduate students to be able to continue their studies without worry for housing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Vice Provost and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies Elizabeth A. Klonoff, Senior Associate Dean College of Graduate Studies John Weishampel, Associate Dean College of Graduate Studies Barbara Fritzche, Senior Assistant Dean Jennifer Parham, Assistant Vice President of Housing, Recreation and Wellness, and Childcare Chris MacDonald, Director of Residence Life & Education Arian L. Bryant, Director of Housing Administration and Finance Peter Mitchell, Associate Director of Mail, Conferences, and Marketing Gordon Adams, Associate Director of Housing Administration Meredith Varner, Senior Vice President for Student Success Paul Dosal, and Assistant Director of Residence Life and Education-Towers at Knights Plaza Marcus Silver

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES


Sierra Holmes
Senate President

01/23/2024
Date


Akhila Damarla
Senate President Pro Tempore

1/25/24
Date