Student Senate Resolution 2016-101

Title: Resolution Commending Graduate Assistants United for Representing the Interests of Graduate Assistants and Successfully Negotiating with UF Administration

Authors: Senator Nicki Baldwin, Senator Douglas Innocent

Sponsors: Student Body President Joselin Padron-Rasines, Senate President Susan Webster, Senator Keith Saint, Senator Charlie Brown, Senator Daniella Saetta, Senator Sean Titus, Allocations Chairman Austin Champoux, Minority Party Leader Nardin Derias, Senator David A. Bell, Graduate Assistants United Co-President Alec Dinnin, Graduate Assistants United Co-President Lia Merivaki

WHEREAS, the University of Florida student body consists of 16,272 graduate and professional students, which make up approximately a third of the student body1; and,

WHEREAS, graduate and professional school students have demanding course loads and a variety of other stressors they deal with on a regular basis; and,

WHEREAS, many graduate students have the additional stress of working as graduate assistants in order to cover their tuition; and,

WHEREAS, UF Graduate Assistants United, a recognized labor union, strives “to improve the lives of all Graduate Assistants during their time at UF” and “gives Graduate Assistants the right to negotiate the terms of our employment through a contract with the University of Florida”2; and,

WHEREAS, UF Graduate Assistants United has made numerous successful efforts towards raising graduate assistant stipends and lowering fees throughout its existence since 19723; and,

WHEREAS, after three months of negotiation, GAU has recently negotiated with UF Administration to give graduate assistants a raise of $430 and $50 in fee relief, effective January 1, 20164; and,

WHEREAS, these successful efforts have helped further GAU’s goals of improving the working conditions of graduate assistants; then,

1 http://www.admissions.ufl.edu/ufprofile.html
2 http://www.ufgau.org/about-us.html
3 http://www.ufgau.org/our-history.html
4 http://www.ufgau.org/tentative-bargaining-agreement.html
THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate commends Graduate Assistants United for their efforts towards improving the lives of graduate students at the University of Florida; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the graduate and professional student population as an integral part of the university.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Graduate Assistants United Co-Presidents Alec Dinin and Lia Merivaki, Vice President of Student Affairs General Dave Kratzer, Provost Joe Glover, and UF Graduate School Dean Henry T. Frierson

Susan Webster
Senate President

1/18/16