

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2018-148

TITLE: Resolution to Increase Access to Childcare for Students with Dependents at the University of Florida

AUTHORS: Senator Daniel Ospina, Graduate Assistants United Chair of Family & Child Care Committee Rebecca Pethes, Judiciary Chairman Will Sandifer

SPONSORS: Senator William Zelin, Senator Samantha Girschick, Senator Ranjeet Randhawa, Graduate Assistants United, Graduate Student Council

WHEREAS, Baby Gator was established in 1969 by a group of student parents as a parent co-op with shared child care duties to support student parents in succeeding academically; and,

WHEREAS, the UF Office for Student Financial Affairs 2016-2017 data indicated 654 undergraduate and 927 graduate students with dependents [1]; and,

WHEREAS, enrollment of student-parents' children currently comprises only 30% of entire enrollment at Baby Gator facilities [2]; and,

WHEREAS, student parents currently utilize only 54 spaces and new student parents may wait up to 18 months for a spot to open up [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Baby Gator has traditionally enrolled student parents' children at a reduced rate and Baby Gator's inability to cover the shortfall, even with CITF funds, has resulted in a 28% decrease in the number of student parents' children enrolled over the past five years [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Baby Gator's full-time student rate currently costs \$7,500 to \$10,000 per year and over 25% of student parents responding to a recent survey reported income below the Federal Poverty Line [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is recognized as a preeminent research institution by the Florida legislature and ranked nationally as a top 10 public university; and,

WHEREAS, top 10 public universities such as the University of Michigan, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill offer child care subsidies [7] [8] [9], child care reimbursement programs [10][11], and a Child Care Resource & Referral Service [12] to help student parents secure and offset the cost of state-licensed child care; and,

WHEREAS, student parents' academic performance, research productivity, professional development, and mental health are affected by lack of access to childcare [4][5]; and,

WHEREAS, student parents typically spend 30 hours or more each week taking care of dependent children and 49% of student parents are likely to leave college after 6 years without a degree [6]; and;

WHEREAS, the options for off-campus child care are few. Within two miles of the UF campus, there are 12 licensed child care centers and 2 family child care homes. Of these, only 7 accept infants and only 5 have earned a “Gold Seal” rating indicating quality of care [1]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes both the personal and financial hardships faced by UF students with dependents.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate seeks to make UF’s campus an inclusive environment for nontraditional undergraduate and graduate students with dependents.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports Baby Gator and Graduate Assistants United in their collaboration with administration regarding the expansion of aid to nontraditional students with dependents.

[1] [Dimichele, A. \(Oct 5, 2018\). “I’m hanging on by a thread”: A glimpse inside student-mom life at UF. The Independent Florida Alligator.](#)

[2] [Ellis, S. \(2017, June 30\). Phone interview.](#)

[3] [Ellis, S. \(2016\). Baby Gator Child Development and Research Centers Request for Student Government Support. Unpublished manuscript.](#)

[4] [Levecque, K., Anseel, F., Beuckelaer, A.D., Van der Heyden, J. & Gisle, L. \(2017\). Work organization and mental health problems in PhD students. *Research Policy*. 46 \(4\). 868-879.](#)

[5] [Springer, K., Parker, B. & Leviten-Reid, C. \(2009\). *Making Space for Graduate Student Parents: Practice and Politics*. Journal of Family Issues. 30 \(4\), 435-457.](#)

[6] [Improving Child Care Access to Promote Postsecondary Success Among Low Income Parents \(2011\). Washington, D.C.: Institute for Women’s Policy Research.](#)

[7] <https://hr.umich.edu/benefits-wellness/work-life/child-care-resources/financial-assistance-child-care>

[8] <https://ece.ucla.edu/tuition/early-care-education-tuition-scholarship>

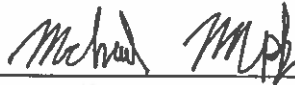
[9] <https://ece.berkeley.edu/students>


[10] <https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/working-at-ucla/childcare-reimbursement-progra>

[11] <https://hr.berkeley.edu/labor/contracts/BX/childcare-reimbursement-program>,
https://grad.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/gsr_childcare_form.pdf

[12] <https://hr.unc.edu/benefits/work-life/child-care/>

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Student Body President Ian Green, Student Body Vice President David Enriquez, Student Body Treasurer Stefan Sanguyo, Provost Joseph Glover, President W. Kent Fuchs, Dean of Students Heather White, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Norb Dunkel, and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. David W. Parrott, Senior Associate Dean of UF Graduate School Paul Duncan, Director of Baby Gator Child Development and Research Center Stacy Ellis, Vice President for Human Resources Jodi Gentry, Director of Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives Tyisha Hathorn, Diversity Programs Coordinator Erin D. Rice, Gator Moms Vice President Tineka Benjamin, Gator Moms President Javiera Rudolph, Assistant Dean for UF Graduate School Judy Traveis


Michael Murphy
Senate President


Date