

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2009-1029**

**TITLE:** Resolution in Support of Cost of Living Raises/Bonuses for all Graduate Assistants

**AUTHORS:** Senators Cynthia Kan and Benjamin Dictor, Graduate Assistants United

**SPONSORS:** Senator Ryan O'Mara, Senator Heshan "Grasshopper" Illangkoon, Senator Matt Michel, Senator Rajeev Mohata, Senator Matt Vernon, Senator Troy Simpson

**WHEREAS,** University of Florida President Bernie Machen received a \$275,000 bonus and many faculty have received a 3% salary increase in the past year; and

**WHEREAS,** UF has the money (from unrestricted funds) to offer Graduate Assistants (GA's) a modest bonus which would make their pay more competitive with other schools; and

**WHEREAS,** the University of Florida has refused to offer cost of living raises or bonuses to all GA's, thus suggesting that they do not consider GA's, who teach the bulk of lower-division courses and do much of the research, to be a priority; and

**WHEREAS,** the Graduate Assistants Union is only asking for a one time bonus of \$400 for all GA's; and

**WHEREAS,** the administration refused to produce a reasonable offer during the bargaining session Thursday February 12<sup>th</sup> despite over 50 students showing up and giving support to GAU; then

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the efforts made by the Graduate Assistants United in bettering the lives of graduate students and strongly urges the administration to offer all graduate assistants a competitive bonus to compensate for increased costs of living for the year 2009-2010.

The University of Florida Student Senate requests that copies of this resolution be sent to University of Florida President Bernard Machen, University of Florida Provost Joseph Glover, University of Florida Associate Provost Angel Kwolek-Folland, University of Florida Dean of the Graduate School Henry Frierson, University of Florida Associate Dean of the Graduate School Kenneth Gerhardt, and the members of the University of Florida Board of Trustees: Carlos Alfonso, Frank Bova, Courtney Cunningham, Roland C. Daniels, W.A. "Mac" McGriff III, Joelen Merkel, Dianna Fuller Morgan, Cynthia O'Connell, S. Daniel Ponce, Earl Powell, Steven M. Scott, Alfred C. Warrington IV, and Kevin Reilly.