

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1007

TITLE: Resolution Condemning the Demolition of Maguire Village and University Village South (UVS) Graduate and Family Housing

AUTHORS: Senator Monica Lea

SPONSORS: Senator Zachery Utt, Senator Emma Sanchez, Minority Party Leader Brianne Seaberg, Senator John Lin, Senator Alejandra Chaparro

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Board of Trustees adopted the University of Florida Campus Master Plan, 2020-2030 [1], that included the elimination of Maguire Village, located along Southwest 34th Street and Radio Road, and University Village South (UVS), located on Southwest 34th Street and Hull Road [2]; and,

WHEREAS, Maguire and UVS represent two (2) of five (5) designated graduate and family housing villages and house over one third of graduate students and student with families on the University of Florida campus [3]; and,

WHEREAS, according to data from University of Florida Housing, in 2004-2005, 1,811 graduate and professional students and their families lived on campus [4]. Under the current Campus Master Plan, Maguire and UVS are planned to be fully closed by 2023 significantly reducing the number of students and families able to live in affordable on campus housing; and,

WHEREAS, in a November 2020 email campaign, at least 120 graduate students over various disciplines and programs sent letters to UF administration officials voicing their concerns and demands that affordable on-campus housing be maintained for graduate students; and [5],

WHEREAS, during the December 4th, 2020, Board of Trustees meeting, President of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) Jonathan Orsini, representative for Graduate Assistants United (GAU) Amanda Pritzlaff, and UF Student Government Graduate Senator Monica Lea spoke during the public comment period to express graduate students' disapproval of these actions [6]; and,

WHEREAS, as of January 2021, UF Housing is no longer accepting new housing contracts and the anticipated final vacate date for Maguire and UVS residents remains scheduled for May 2023; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate stands with graduate students and students with families to condemn the demolition of Maguire Village and University Village South (UVS) Graduate and Family Housing.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the UF Board of Trustees to amend the University of Florida Campus Master Plan, 2020-2030 to maintain affordable graduate and family housing as essential.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the UF Board of Trustees, Director of UF Housing, Graduate Student Council, Graduate Assistants United, and UF President Kent Fuchs

[1] https://facilities.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/plan/docs/UF%20CMP_Amend_Public%20Workshop_2020-11-12.pdf

[2] <https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/2021/01/02/breakdown-changes-and-projects-uf-2020-30-campus-master-plan/6545421002/>

[3] https://housing.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019_HRE_GFH_GuidetoGainesville_Booklet_Rev03.pdf

[4] <https://facilities.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/plan/2025-2030/data/Housing%20DandA%202020.pdf>

[5] <https://www.ufgau.org/housing.html>

[6] <https://trustees.ufl.edu/media/trusteesufledu/minutes/2020/combined---December-3-4,-2020.pdf>