



Graduate Assistants United
YOUR UNION, YOUR VOICE.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 2019

GAU Sends Letter Regarding October 10th ACCENT Speaking Event

GAINESVILLE, FL – On October 4th, GAU sent the following letter to ACCENT Speakers Bureau Chair Henry Fair, regarding ACCENT's decision to host Donald Trump Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle as speakers.

"Dear Henry Fair,

"The Executive Committee of the University of Florida Graduate Assistants United (UF-GAU) wishes to formally to register our unequivocal opposition to the ACCENT Speakers Bureau's recent decision to allocate \$50,000 toward a speaker's fees for Donald Trump Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle. While UF-GAU respects and encourages the exercise of free speech on campus that does not physically endanger students and workers at the University, we cannot condone the appropriation of Student Activity and Service Fee monies for political campaigning purposes.

"Given that the 2020 Donald Trump for President campaign officially launched on June 18th of this year, and given that Donald Trump Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle have regularly campaigned on behalf of the President prior to and since the official campaign launch, the upcoming appearance of Donald Trump Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle on campus can be seen as nothing other than a campaign event.

"Our members and non-member constituents, totaling approximately 4,000 graduate workers at the University, are required to pay the Student Activity and Service Fee by Florida state law (1009.24, Florida Statutes). Additionally, our members and constituents are not given the opportunity to opt-out of paying this Fee. Therefore, use of Student Activity and Service Fee monies for payment for the upcoming speaking engagement constitutes unconstitutional compelled political speech according the Supreme Court of the United States decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*, 585 U.S. ___ (2018).

"Therefore, UF-GAU demands the ACCENT Speakers Bureau either cancel or find an alternative and constitutional funding source for the upcoming speaking engagement featuring Donald Trump Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle.

"Regards,
"Bobby Mermer and Andrea Medina, Co-Presidents
"On Behalf of University of Florida Graduate Assistants United"

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GAU is the official labor union representing the approximately 4,000 teaching, research, and graduate assistants at the University of Florida. UFF, FEA, NEA, AFT, AFL-CIO. For additional information, contact GAU Communication Chair Stephen C. Phillips at communications@ufgau.org or 352-575-0366.