



**Graduate Assistants United**  
YOUR UNION, YOUR VOICE.

224 Yon Hall, PO Box 112014  
Gainesville, Florida 32611  
352-575-0366  
organizing@ufgau.org  
ufgau.org

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*JOINT STATEMENT ON UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA REOPENING IN FALL, 2021*

UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA – UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA CHAPTER (UFF-UF)

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS UNITED – UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (GAU-UF)

Everyone associated with the University of Florida celebrates the return of happier, less restrictive times, and continuing success at containing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic on campus and beyond. However, **vigilance is still required** to ensure safety and to **prevent new closures** as we move forward together.

Because our university community brings together people from all over the state and the world, the return to campus in Fall 2021 presents a unique challenge in a worldwide pandemic. Due to problems accessing vaccines in many countries in the world, we are extremely concerned about the possibility of **variants from abroad** that may endanger even vaccinated people on our campus if we begin the semester without safeguards such as masking, testing and other safety guidance in place.

Throughout the pandemic, there have been “plans”, but these have not been made with transparency and dialogue between the administration and the rest of the UF community. This is antithetical to the very idea of **shared governance** at the University of Florida. Faculty, staff and graduate students are on the **front lines** serving the population of the state and **must be included** in the process of making decisions that affect us all.

We demand:

- **Continued guidance for wearing face masks in classroom situations**

- Reevaluation of masking guidelines to protect vulnerable individuals who must learn and/or work on campus
- **Continued availability of testing and continued reporting of campus Covid statistics**
  - through the Screen, Test and Protect program or similar
- **Publication of classroom and office ventilation standards and compliance**
  - Similar to posted restaurant A/B/C/D standards. We have been assured that such assessments were conducted, but have never seen the data.
- **UFF-UF/GAU and UF Faculty and Staff Participation in Decision-Making**

We await a reply.

**UFF-UF AND GAU OFFICER CONTACTS:**

Paul Ortiz, President, UF Chapter of United Faculty of Florida (UFF-UF)

president@uff-uf.org Phone: 831-334-0131

Rachel Hartnett, Co-President UF Chapter of Graduate Assistants United (GAU-UF)

president@ufgau.org Phone: 561-889-7406