



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

75th STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 78

Primary Sponsor(s): Hine

Co-Sponsor(s): Anandjiwala, Barresi, Burton, Chinn, Garcia, Gorelick, McEnery, Meier, Ramos, Windland

Date: October 23, 2023

Whereas: A requirement of graduation for College of Social Work students at Florida State University is to complete a field internship, where students in the Bachelor of Social Work program are required to complete a minimum of 512 internship hours during their final semester with an option of completing 256 part time internship hours over 2 semesters, and

Whereas: Students in the Master of Social Work program are required to complete 432 hours of a field internship during their first year, with the option of 216 hours over two semester part time, and 512 internship hours during their second year, with the option of completing 256 hours part time, and

Whereas: Due to the fact this number of hours equates to around 40 hours a week, students working full time are advised to significantly reduce or discontinue their work commitments to accommodate the demands of the field education placement and during the semesters of their internships, the social work students are required to pay tuition fees of twelve hours for their internship, and

Whereas: As a large majority of the field placements the college offers to the social work students are unpaid, a significant amount of social work students have expressed concerns about how unpaid internships have negatively impacted their mental health and well-being, and

Whereas: Payment 4 Placements FSU is a student led organization on campus established in the fall of 2022 with the goal of working with administration on campus to establish more accessible paid field placements for all social work students on campus, and

Whereas: In the spring and summer of the 2023, Payment 4 Placement surveyed almost 100 students in the College of Social Work and found that 47 percent of Bachelors of Social Work students and 77 percent of Masters of Social Work students they surveyed had considered leaving the social work programs due to unpaid field internships, and

Whereas: The survey found 92 percent of Masters of Social Work students surveyed felt that working an unpaid field placement negatively impacted their mental health, as they reported having to take out additional loans to pay for monthly and daily expenses, feeling too tired and stressed to have a social life, and felt that the unpaid internships did not value their level of work, therefore

Be it resolved by the Seventy-fifth Student Senate at Florida State University that: The Student Senate acknowledges the labor being done by these students in the College of Social Work during their field internships is valuable and important and understand the importance of mental health throughout every student's college journey, and

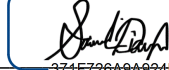
Be it further resolved that: We understand that the goal of establishing paid internship opportunities for all social work students will take a combination of efforts between students, administration, and state legislators, and

Be it further resolved that: We encourage the College of Social Work administration to start this process and work with the students of Payment 4 Placement FSU to strategize ways to establish stipends and try to develop an action plan for finding paid field placements for the social work students, and

Be it lastly resolved that: A copy of this resolution be sent to:
Dr. Richard McCullough, President of Florida State University
Mrs. Bridgett Birmingham, President of the FSU Faculty Senate
David Springer, Dean of the College of Social Work
Carol Campbell Edwards, Director of the BSW program
Fran Gomory, Director of the MSW program
Katrina Boone, College of Social Work Director of Field Education
Hannah Carter, SGA Director of Academic Affairs

OFFICIAL: _____

DocuSigned by:



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Student Senate President

SENATE VOTE: Unanimous Consent

PASSED: November 1, 2023