



INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: November 2, 2015
TO: Mayor Ed Braddy
VIA: Russ Blackburn, City Manager *RB*
FROM: Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager *PF*
SUBJECT: City Engagement with University of Florida Students

At your request, staff has prepared a sampling of the City's engagement with University of Florida (UF) students, which may be helpful for the meeting tomorrow night with UF Student Government. City staff has also received the suggested questions from UF Student Government and will have appropriate staff available to help address questions as needed.

CC: City Commissioners
Charter Officers
Leadership Team

Attachments: Engagement with City Departments

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City Engagement with University of Florida Students

City Attorney

- Most every semester we host/supervise a legal extern from the UF College of Law. In addition, we often mentor UF students and allow them to shadow us in our work for the City.
- We volunteer to serve as judges for the appellate argument program, trial team competitions, moot court competitions, and mock quasi-judicial board training at the College of Law.
- We volunteer to teach workshops on legal topics (such as jury selection and discovery), to speak at new law student orientation, and participate on UF law panels on public service law and work/life balance.
- Through our involvement with various local professional legal groups, such as the Federal Bar, Inn of Court, and Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar, we work with UF on Continuing Legal Education courses such as the Constitutional Revision Symposium, Supreme Court Justice Lectures, and e-discovery conferences.

City Auditor

- The Auditor's Office is looking into utilizing interns in 2016.

City Clerk

- City Commissioners have had interns from time to time.
- Students can apply for regular positions or student positions on City advisory boards through the Clerk's Office.

City Manager's Office

- We regularly host interns interested in future careers in local government including City management.
- The City Manager regularly addresses UF classes focused on local government and related issues.
- Staff regularly makes themselves available for interviews with students on local government and issues the City is addressing.
- Participate on UF's Community Alcohol Coalition with GPD.

Code Enforcement

- Staff the Student Community Relations Advisory Board which often has student seats available and whose purpose is to strive for a more cohesive community with our students and non-

students by providing a forum for discussing and recommending solutions to student and community issues/concerns.

Communications Office

- Internship opportunities in broadcasting, public information/outreach, copy writing/editing and graphic design/layout.
- Each session of Citizens' Academy has students from UF and sessions are tailored to work around UF's calendar year for maximum participation.
- Photography contest is set around UF calendar with specific outreach to UF and SFC.
- Broadcasting sends city-related videos to UF to play in dorm rooms on UF's internal channel.
- City website has a student guide webpage and Broadcasting has a student guide to Gainesville that airs on Channel 12 and is provided to UF for their use.
- Sets up and gives interviews to Alligator and WUFT reporters, as well as journalism students whose work is for classroom use only.
- Maintain distribution e-mail lists of interest to students: press releases for frequent e-mails about what is happening in Gainesville and Municipal Minutes for broader monthly e-mail.
- City presence on social media channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Google+, Flickr.

Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)

- Twice a semester the CRA hosts a master-level class in Sustainable Development and an undergraduate class in Community Development. Our presentation has become an integral part of the curriculum as we share professional experience from the "front lines" and are available as a resource to students.
- CRA staff serves in the School of Landscape Architecture as part of a professional "Jury" on graduate level projects.
- We typically have one student intern at a time serve for varied terms at the CRA. Typically from the planning, law, real estate, or architectural programs.
- We support the College of Journalism, as their students' Intern for various news agencies and/or draft stories relating to the CRA and its projects/programs. We not only take time to meet with them, but also facilitate additional contacts for students.
- CRA partnered with the College of Fine Arts for the Seward Johnson sculpture installation that benefitted UF and redevelopment neighborhoods – particularly Fifth Avenue/ Pleasant Street, College Park/University Heights and Downtown.

- CRA coordinates with UF on social media efforts that impact or are relevant to CRA redevelopment areas.
- CRA is helping to fund lighting improvements in the University context area within College Park/University Heights.

Equal Opportunity

- The Human Rights Board is composed of seven voting members, plus one additional student member, appointed by the City Commission. Membership should be representative of the city's population and whenever possible, should reflect racial, ethnic, and religious minorities as well as geographic economic and sexual considerations. The board meets monthly to review the final investigative report provided by the Office.
- Students are invited to participate in Study Circles where 10 to 12 Gainesville residents from all walks of life meet for two hours a week for six weeks to engage in discussions regarding prejudices and bias with an eventual call to action.
- Internship opportunities are available and may include conducting research and providing reports; developing an overall branding and marketing strategy for the office; providing assistance to staff with various diversity initiatives; maintaining RSVPs for events; and other duties as assigned that will provide the intern with beneficial knowledge.
- The Office is always seeking volunteers to assist with our community outreach and tabling events in the community.

GFR

- GFR provides fire rescue service on and off campus.
- UF Interns helped created our Training Database/Training Reporting System, Emergency Medical System Bike Team of UF Students, and a UF GFR Association (Red-Riders). We have used students/grads in public education positions/roles.
- Interns have provided set-up for data input and management to explore the Community Paramedic concept. Fire Chief Jeff Lane serves on the Advisory Board for UF's Fire and Emergency Services Programs. GFR has mentored students in the program and assisted and made staff available to students working on research, projects, and papers.
- GFR has a sea of data and is currently seeking assistance with IT for data analysis to help focus our efforts. Opportunities for interns include: 1) the Fire Chiefs office for special projects, 2) Risk Reduction to help identify specific target hazards and follow-up after fires and 3) Support Services to assist with Quality Assurance and Emergency Medical Services programs.
- GFR seeks to build on current relationships with the Fire and Emergency Services Program providing mentorship for those students as well as to Nursing students to enhance our Emergency medical services programs. GFR sees an opportunity to support prevention

awareness to students, especially incoming freshmen, on fire, bike/ scooter safety, and general safety.

GPD

- **Police/Student Dialogue** is held each month on UF campus involving 20-25 students including 3+ hours of dialogue regarding national and local law enforcement issues. Student government is involved and helps in attracting/inviting students.
- **Alcohol awareness program** conducted on weekends (nighttime) utilizing portable breath tests.
- **Student Academy** run each year exposes students to police practices, ride-a-longs, GPD programs, and encourages future involvement with the Gainesville Police Department.
- **GPD Crime Prevention Officers** are members of the City's Student Community Relations Advisory Board along with students and Nora Kilroy, UF Director of Off-Campus Life.
- **Collaborated with UF professors and students** to measure the effectiveness and benefit of G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistant Education and Training) that targets 3rd and 4th graders in our schools.
- **Continue to promote our Social Media relationship** with students through Twitter and Facebook.
- **Currently working to strengthen UF's student volunteer program.** Students, many belonging to sororities and fraternities, help with neighborhood clean-ups.
- **UF students have partnered with the Reichert House after-school programs** and help with tutoring at-risk students.

GRU

Internships - GRU's Student Internship Program provides students with professional experience related to their career goals. GRU currently offers internships to students in the following departments:

- **Energy Supply** – Four interns currently
- **Water/Wastewater** – Six interns currently
- **Information Technology** – One intern currently
- **Communications** – Two interns currently
- **GRUCom** – One intern currently
- **Budget and Finance** – Three interns currently

Brighter Tomorrow Scholarship Program

- **Founded in 2009 by GRU and the Education Foundation of Alachua County with total program awards of \$76,000.**
- **Scholarships awarded to deserving local high school seniors from underrepresented demographics who wish to pursue engineering degrees at the University of Florida or Santa Fe College.**
- **Annual banquet organized by GRU's Community Relation department is the Program's largest fundraiser.**

Other Activities

Community Relations

- **Partnership with the Society of Women Engineers UF chapter for EngiNEAR U after-school STEM education program for elementary school students and annual Science Fun Night at Williams Elementary School.**

Water/Wastewater

- **As chair of the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association, engages UF civil and environmental engineering students through facility tours.**
- **Engages with students in the American Society of Civil Engineers UF Chapter.**

Information Technology

- **Department representative on Santa Fe College's IT educational curriculum advisory board.**

Human Resources

- **Internship opportunities are available across the organization. The City offers both paid and unpaid internships throughout the year. Students may speak directly with departments for unpaid internships related to their field of study and may check with the UF Career Resource Center for paid internships. Many of the paid internship positions are in technical fields.**

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA)

- **PRCA offers internship and volunteer opportunities for UF students interested in acquiring experience in: event management, tourism and hospitality, environmental education and science, cultural and historical heritage, facility management, park operations, natural resource management, recreation programming, golf course management, administration, customer service and more.**

- **PRCA attends numerous student internship fairs and expositions on campus informing students of these internship and volunteer opportunities. Just recently we had 46 students sign up to receive volunteer and internship information for PRCA experiences.**
- **Student Group Volunteer Activities are available for student service organizations doing projects like park clean-ups, cleaning signs, picking up litter along trails, etc. Recently the UF Student Kiwanis Club did a clean-up at Kiwanis Challenge Park.**
- **Individual student tutoring opportunities are available at recreation center after-school programs and/or summer camps. Student opportunities are available to work with children and senior citizens on improving health and nutrition such as student trips to the Thelma Boltin Center and the Senior Recreation Center, including blood pressure checks, nutritional talks, and individual counseling.**

Planning and Development Services

- **Participated in UX Gainesville and IDEO project.**
- **Provide internships and shadowing program.**
- **Regular speaking engagements and guest lecturers.**
- **Students serve as members of our volunteer planning boards.**

Public Works

- **UF students participate in Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board Meetings for class projects/assignments and Public Works provides outreach events on campus targeting bicycle and pedestrian safety.**
- **Eta Sigma Gamma, a national professional health education honorary service group, trained and assisted in community bicycle helmet fitting, scooter safety, bicycle giveaway and helmet safety campaign at Reitz Union, Southwest Advocacy Group (S.W.A.G), Alachua County Partnership & Cone Park library sites.**
- **We certify University Police Department Officers and UF Athlete Brain group to properly fit and continue ordering free bicycle helmets for UF students through the Florida Pedestrian and Bicycling Safety Resource Center at UF and participate in UF Scooter and Motorcycle Safety Campaign with Dr. Maria Coady.**
- **Worked with the Florida Department of Transportation participating with Pedestrian Road Safety Audits along University Avenue (SR 26) and 13th Street (US 441) to review bike/pedestrian and other transportation issues in the UF area.**
- **Public Works provides information and resource booths at the: UF Office of Sustainability – One Less Car Transportation Fair, UF Center for Leadership and Service Volunteer Organization Fair,**

UF Student Family Welcome event (organized by the UF PhD Mom's group), and UF RecStravaganza event at the UF SW Recreation Center.

- **Working on a painted crosswalks project with the Students for New Urbanism (SNU).**
- **Various UF class and field presentations.**
- **Internships in a variety of fields (paid and non-paid).**
- **Coordinated effort to develop a lighting plan with GRU and CRA to improve lighting around UF campus.**
- **Working on a bike share project with UF to benefit students and the community.**
- **Adopt a Street / Clean-up Kits - targeted a lot of sororities and fraternities and other UF organizations.**
- **The Solid Waste Division coordinates with Nora Kilroy, UF Director of Off-Campus Life, Code Enforcement, and GPD to welcome new students to the College Park neighborhood every August. City staff goes house to house to engage new renters and provide them with information about City services and ordinances. By taking a friendly proactive approach when they move in, we hope to reduce the need to address violations later in the semester.**

RTS

- **RTS's partnership with the University Florida to allow unlimited transit access to students has been successful since 1998. Through the UF Transportation Fee committee, students decide where they want transit services. This partnership has allowed RTS to receive multiple awards and most recently the "2015 Outstanding Transit System of the Year award" for the State of Florida.**
- **We offer unpaid internship opportunities in transit planning and marketing.**