



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**
Student Government Association

Resolution 31-09

A Resolution to Increase Outreach and Support to Rural Georgia

Authored by: Senator Briana Hayes; College of Public Health Senator

Sponsored by: Zion Eberhart; At-Large Senator, Allison Fine; Campus Life Senator, Matthew McDaniel; Terry College of Business Senator, Patrick Femia; Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Senator, Alexis Watson; At-Large Senator, Jessica Story; Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication Senator, Jessica Douglas; Campus Life Senator, Sam Bryant; At-Large Senator, George Alexander; At-Large Senator, Andrew Stephens; At-Large Senator, Connor Rahbany; At-Large Senator

WHEREAS, the University of Georgia is the flagship institution of higher education in the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the University of Georgia has publicly pledged in ‘The UGA Faculty Statement on Diversity’ to “adopt policies and practices to increase diversity among its entering students;” and

WHEREAS, the statement proceeds to include an exhaustive list of the various branches of diversity it vows to acknowledge; and,

WHEREAS, Geographic Diversity and Experiential Diversity are two branches specifically named within this exhaustive list; and,

¹ UGA Admissions,
<https://www.admissions.uga.edu/Why-UGA/Student-Life/Diversity/Faculty-Diversity-Statement>

WHEREAS, the demographics of the University of Georgia's student population, in contrast, do not accurately depict the geographical, experiential, and racial demographics of the entire state of Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Darris Means of UGA's Department of the Counseling and Human Development Services has conducted research showing that rural high school students, especially rural minorities, are not fully prepared to apply to and attend post-secondary institutions such as the University of Georgia; and,²

WHEREAS, outreach and recruitment programs at the University of Georgia are not inclusive to rural school districts for reasons such as geographical distance and unestablished relations in rural areas; and,

WHEREAS, several rural students reported never seeing the University of Georgia at their college fair during their high school career; and,

WHEREAS, the significant economic lag in rural Georgia is an additional challenge to rural students in regard to applying to college because rural school districts lack the resources and funds required to fully prepare students for post-secondary education; and,

WHEREAS, students in rural school districts are therefore discouraged from applying to the University of Georgia and experience difficulty in being accepted into the institution due to the academic rigor, financial burden, and overall sense of unwelcomeness; and,

WHEREAS, as a result, the retention rate of those rural students who do attend the University of Georgia is significantly lower than that of their peers from non-rural areas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 31st Administration of the Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body, acknowledges the need of increased attention to rural students and advocates for increased outreach and support to school districts in rural Georgia; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Government Association recommends the University of Georgia to pilot a program intended to increase the number of rural high school students that apply to the University of Georgia and to increase the retention rate among rural students currently attending the institution; and

² AJC,
https://www.ajc.com/news/local-education/students-who-are-black-rural-and-impooverished-overlooked-colleges/XE_xbbjXgexFhiKLW2tWQeJ/

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that if the piloted program is successful, the University of Georgia gradually expand this program to fulfill its responsibility as the flagship institution of the State of Georgia.