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SB59-16/17: Resolution Regarding the University of Montana’s Mental Health Strategy

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Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is the representative body of the students of the University of Montana (UM);

Whereas, UM Students are currently limited to eight (8) appointments with a counselor at the Curry Health Center (CHC) and any additional appointments must be made with an external counselor off-campus;

Whereas, an analysis conducted by the Center for Collegiate Mental Health shows that students’ self-reported distress levels for depression and anxiety have continued to increase over the past six years;

Whereas, the total number of scheduled service hours have increased by 28% over the past six years according to the same report;

Whereas, the University of Montana Executive Summary regarding the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment II (ACHA-NCHA II) national research survey for Spring 2016 showed that (n = 1,037) in the last year 21.3% and 18.4% of students were diagnosed or treated by a professional for anxiety or depression, respectively;

Whereas, according to the same report 63.6% of students reported feeling very sad, 61% felt overwhelming anxiety, and 36% felt so depressed that it was difficult to function at least once in the last 12 months;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) supports the expansion of mental health resources on the University of Montana (UM) campus;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges the Curry Health Center to continue prioritizing mental health resources when constructing a budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year 18;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges the Curry Health Center to continue to open up unfilled “crisis hours” to walk-in students and optimizing crisis to walk-in hour ratios, so that existing resources are utilized most efficiently;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM encourages the Curry Health Center to continue collaborating with ASUM to survey students about mental health resources on the University of Montana campus;
Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges the Curry Health Center to consider expanding group counseling and health coaching options at the University of Montana;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to: Mike Frost, Counseling Director at the Curry Health Center; Rick Curtis, Director of the Curry Health Center; Tom Crady, Vice-President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Michelle Jensen, Budget Director for Student Affairs; Mike Reid, Vice President of Administration and Finance; and Beckie Christiaens, Associate Vice President of Administration and Finance.

Passed by Committee: _________________________, 2017

Passed by ASUM Senate: _________________________, 2017

Connor Fitzpatrick
Chair of Relations & Affairs

Elizabeth Engebretson
Chair of the Senate


2 University of Montana 2016 Executive Summary for the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment II (ACHA-NCHA II) National Research Survey https://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/Docs-General/2016%20NCHA%20Correct%20PDF.pdf