

11-28-2016

## JR-16F-3070: In Support of the Counseling Center

Student Government Association University of North Florida

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3 Whereas: The Student Government of the University of North Florida was established to represent student  
4 concerns in all University wide matters, and;

5 Whereas: The Senate is the legislative body of the University of North Florida's Student Government given  
6 the responsibility of carrying out such legislative acts that are necessary and proper for the Student  
7 Body of the University of North Florida, and;

8 Whereas: We recognize an inherent responsibility of Student Government is to "represent concerns for  
9 student welfare" (Article I Section 3), and;

10 Whereas: Student Government acknowledges and supports the mission of the Counseling Center which is  
11 "to enhance students' total educational experience by providing a confidential and supportive  
12 environment where student concerns can be shared and explored," and;

13 Whereas: In the 2015-2016 academic year, 56% of students recognized mental health as a priority (SLS  
14 Survey), and;

15 Whereas: Student utilization of the Counseling Center has increased by approximately 40% from 2006 to  
16 2016, while enrollment at the University of North Florida has plateaued in the last four years (from  
17 2012-2016), and;

18 Whereas: According to the Counseling Center, there are 11 full-time mental health counselors that are  
19 available to serve approximately 16,000 students. Furthermore, the UNF Counseling Center is not  
20 meeting the recommended standards set forth by International Association of Counseling Services  
21 (IACS), which is 1 counselor for every 1,100 students, and;

22 Whereas: According to the Counseling Center, the ideal wait time from the point of a student booking an  
23 appointment to seeing the counselor is one week, two weeks at most. According to students,  
24 (Roundtable Fall 2016). Currently, the average wait time to book a counseling session is 3 weeks,  
25 and;

26 Whereas: The Counseling Center is currently operating at unsustainable levels of spending relative to their  
27 budget, in attempts to accommodate the influx of students needing mental health services.  
28 Increasing funding is the only way to ensure the Counseling Center can continue to provide  
29 adequate services to the Student Body, and;

30 Whereas: Currently, the UNF Counseling Center must annually withdraw \$196,000 from their fund balance  
31 to ensure that adequate services are provided to students, and;

32 Whereas: A reallocation of student fees will add three doctorate level interns to the current staff of  
33 counselors, and;



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2 Therefore: The Student Government Senate advocates for the reallocation of \$0.32 of student fees in  
3 order to raise the Counseling Center's fee allocation from \$2.90 to \$3.22.

4 Furthermore: Let this Joint Resolution be forwarded to every member of the Student Fee Assessment  
5 Committee.

6  
7

**Legislative Action**


**Executive Action**

Author: The Counseling Center Ad-Hoc Committee  
Sponsors: Senator Lauren Harrison and Senator Nina Lee  
Committee: University and Student Affairs Committee  
Committee Action: 7-0-0  
Committee Date Action: 11/16/16  
Senate Action: 32-0-1  
Date of Action: 11/21/16

Let it be known that JR-16F-3070 is hereby

APPROVED / VETOED

on this 28 day of November, 2016.

Signed,   
*Caleb Grantham, Student Body President*

Signed and Delivered to the Student Body President  
on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of Nov., 2016.

Signed and Delivered to the Senate Secretary

Place Time Stamp Here

Place Time Stamp Here

6547, 11/22/16

Signed:   
*Dallas Burke, Student Senate President*