

4-15-2021

JR-21S-3559: Support of the Counseling Center

Student Government Association University of North Florida

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Student
Government
University of North Florida

SENATE LEGISLATION

JR-21S-3559

JR-21S-3559: (Support of the Counseling Center)

2 Whereas:

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

5 Whereas:

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

9 Whereas:

10 The Student Government of the University of North Florida acknowledges and
11 supports the Counseling Centers mission statement which is, "to enhance students'
12 total educational experience by providing a confidential and supportive environment
13 where student concerns can be shared and explored. Center services assist students
14 with their personal development and enhance their potential for academic success;"
15 and;

16 Whereas:

17 71.63% of students that took the Osprey Voice on Mental Health felt that their stress level with
18 their academics was the worst or mediocre with their college course load; and;

19 Whereas:

20 72.56% of students who participated in the Mental Health Osprey Voice stated that their mental
21 health has worsened due to the COVID 19 Pandemic; and;

22 Whereas:

23 According to students who took the Mental Health Osprey Voice, 66.25% of students feel that it
24 is difficult to access the counseling center; and;

25 Whereas:

26 61.32% of students who took the Mental Health Osprey Voice stated that they utilize individual
27 therapy and counseling the most from the University of North Florida Counseling Center; and;

28 Whereas:

29 According to students who took the Mental Health Osprey Voice, ~~stated that~~ the waitlist to speak
30 with a counselor can be extremely long and difficult; and;

31 Whereas:

32 According to the International Accreditation of Counseling Services (IACS) for every one
33 thousand to ~~fifteen-hundred~~ one thousand five hundred (1,000 1,500) students there should be
34 one counselor*; and;

35 Whereas:

36 According to the Counseling Center, there are currently eleven (11) full time and part time
37 counselors to serve over seventeen thousand (17,000) students with a ratio of one to one thousand
38 five hundred and forty six (1:1546) which meets the bare minimum for the IACS standards; and;

39 Whereas:

40 The Student Government of the University of North Florida would like to see an additional five
41 (5) counselors be hired in order to meet the standard of one counselor to one thousand students
42 (1:1000); and;

43 Whereas:

* <https://iacsinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/IACS-2020-STANDARDS.pdf> Page



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The Counseling Center has also stated that the Counselors at the University of North Florida are among the lowest paid for University Counseling in the State of Florida; and;

Whereas:

Counselors at other Florida Public Universities are making an upwards of twenty five thousand (25,000) to forty thousand (40,000) dollars more than counselors at the University of North Florida; and;

Whereas:

Due to the Florida minimum wage increase the Counseling Center has stated if they do not begin to pay their staff more, they will fall behind in paying their staff a competitive wage; and;

Whereas:

Other Florida Public Universities combine their Counseling Center fee with Student Health Services which may be called a health fee; and;

Whereas:

Other Counseling Centers in the state of Florida for Public Universities are charging students a mean of five dollars (\$5) per credit hour making the University of North Florida the lowest in the state with only three dollars and twenty seven cents (3.27); and;

Whereas:

The Student Government of the University of North Florida supported the reallocation of \$0.32 of student's fees back in 2016; and;

Therefore:

Let it be known that the Student Government of the University of North Florida advocates for student's mental health and supports the University of North Florida Counseling Center; as well as advocates for an increase in the Counseling Center student fees of fifteen cents (\$0.15) for a total of three dollars and forty two cents (\$3.42) to not take effect until the 2022-2023 fiscal year; as well as a maximum increase of one dollar (\$1) yearly until the 2026-2027 fiscal year to follow the Florida minimum wage increase.

Furthermore:

Let this Joint Resolution be forwarded to all of the following members: All members on the Student Fee Assessment Committee, all members on the Board of Governors, all members of the Board of Trustees, Governor Ron DeSantis, Dr. Szymanski, ~~President~~ University of North Florida President, Dr. ~~Richmond~~ Wynn, ~~director~~ Director of the University of North Florida Counseling Center, Marshall Criser III, Chancellor of the Florida State University System, and Dr. Andrea Adams-Manning the Dean of Students.

	42	Committee Action: <u>6-0-0</u>
	43	
Author: <u>Senator David Catone</u>	44	Senate Action: <u>Unanimous Consent</u>
Sponsor: <u>Senator David Catone</u>	45	
Committee: <u>University and Student Affairs</u>	46	Date of Action: <u>4/9/21</u>
	47	
	48	



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15

Executive Action

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Let it be known that JR-21S-3559 is hereby

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APPROVED/ VETOED

Signed and Delivered to the Student Body

19

on this 15 day of April, 2021

President on this 14 day of

20

April, 2021

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Time Stamp Here:

Signed: _____

Rachel Saunders, Student Senate

President

Time Stamp Here:

30

Signed, ...

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Ally Schmieder, Student Body President

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