



GSO Senate Resolution 15.09

A Resolution Calling for Improvements to Mental Health Services

Whereas, mental health services are a critical component of overall student health services, especially for graduate students, who experience major stress, anxiety, and depression while pursuing their degrees, with national annual rates of stress reaching 54.5%, depression of 27.2%, 78.5% feeling overwhelmed, and nearly 10% having contemplated suicide¹, and;

Whereas, the Counseling Center has a staff to student ratio of 1:1235, satisfying the requirement of its accreditation agency (International Association of Counseling Services) of 1:1500, but does not satisfy the recommended level of 1:1000, and;

Whereas, the Counseling Center staff are very heavily scheduled and utilized by the student body, with graduate students for the past four years sending grievances to the GSO concerning an inability to see counselors on short time spans, and;

Whereas, graduate students have had conflicts with policies governing service availability in the summer, being denied service if they are not actively enrolled in summer courses despite being enrolled in a continuing program of study, due to budgetary and personnel constraints imposed by the university therefore, be it

Resolved, that the GSO supports the hiring of additional psychiatrists and Counseling Center staff to properly support the student body, and;

Resolved, that the GSO urges the university to move toward a ratio of Counseling Center staff to students of 1:1000, and;

Resolved, that the university report to the student body on progress made on this issue at the end of the spring 2015 semester and each academic year thereafter until sufficient staff support is achieved.

¹ <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19325037.2013.764248#.VGqNzclNeJS>