

Associated Students, Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #17-05

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES &
THE EXPANSION OF THE CAMPUS HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTER

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of over 20,000 students at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), *and*
- WHEREAS: Cal Poly strives to enhance student success by providing “Learn by Doing opportunities, delivering innovative student-centered programs, encouraging personal growth, and empowering our students within a safe, healthy, inclusive and supportive environment”,¹ *and*
- WHEREAS: to holistically and effectively achieve Cal Poly’s goals of student success, student mental health resources need to be an urgent priority, *and*
- WHEREAS: the 2014 Healthy Minds Study, a national study of which 4,000 Cal Poly students participated, found that 21 percent of students are experiencing moderate to major forms of depression and 34 percent of students have lifetime diagnoses of mental health disorders,² *and*
- WHEREAS: 47 percent of students agree that “Most people would think less of someone who has received Mental Health treatment” and 33 percent question how serious their needs are, limiting their willingness to seek professional help,³ *and*
- WHEREAS: the National Society of Mental Illness states that 40 percent of students do not seek mental health services when they need it,⁴ *and*
- WHEREAS: The International Association of Counseling Services states that “Every effort should be made to maintain minimum staffing ratios in the range of one F.T.E. [Full Time Equivalent] professional staff member (excluding trainees) to every 1,000 to 1,500 students, depending on services offered and other campus mental health agencies”,⁵ *and*

1 "Student Success Fees." Cal Poly Student Affairs. Student Affairs, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

2 The Healthy Minds Study 2014 Report. Rep. Healthy Minds, n.d. Web.

3 The Healthy Minds Study 2014 Report. Rep. Healthy Minds, n.d. Web.

4 Fact Sheet Library. NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness, n.d. Web.

5 "Staff to Student Ratios." Statement Regarding Recommended Staff to Student Ratios. International Association of Counseling Services, Inc., n.d. Web.

WHEREAS: the Cal Poly Health and Counseling Center is currently funded by the health service, facility,⁶ and student success fees,⁷ yet Counseling Services still falls below the aforementioned student to clinician ratio standards, only employing 14.5 professional counselors of the minimum 20 that are recommended,⁸ *and*

WHEREAS: the current Campus Health & Wellbeing Center facility is unable to house additional clinicians, potentially hindering Counseling Service's attempts to increase support of student mental health and wellbeing, *and*

WHEREAS: the hours of operation and accessibility of Counseling Services and like resources are often deemed incompatible for students' academic and extracurricular schedules⁹

THEREFORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: the ASI Board of Directors formally supports students experiencing any and all forms of mental health and wellbeing struggles through active engagement and ally-ship with Counseling Services

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: the ASI Board of Directors encourages Cal Poly administrators and relevant groups to prioritize the expansion of the Campus Health & Wellbeing Center

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: Cal Poly takes financial ownership of the Campus Health & Wellbeing Center expansion

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: with the support of ASI Student Government, Campus Health & Wellbeing departments conduct focus groups consisting of a cross-section of students, faculty, and staff to assess the priorities of a new Campus Health & Wellbeing Center facility

6 Fall 2015, Winter 2016 & Spring 2016 Quarterly Fees." Administration and Finance, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Cal Poly Administration and Finance, n.d. Web.

7 2015 - 2016 Student Success Fee Impact Report. Rep. Cal Poly Student Affairs, n.d. Web.

8 Meet The Counseling Services Staff. Campus Health & Wellbeing, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, n.d. Web.

9 The Healthy Minds Study 2014 Report. Rep. Healthy Minds, n.d. Web.

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: these focus groups assess varying expenses for service and facility exploration to ensure that a new Campus Health & Wellbeing Center adequately supports the campus community without becoming a large financial burden on students

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: the ASI Board of Directors recommends that alternative funds, such as donations or endowments, be used to satisfy best practice standards, to enhance the accessibility of Counseling Services beyond the typical workday, and to diversify the services offered to more thoroughly reflect the needs of students

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: It is requested that a report summarizing the intent for funding the Campus Health & Wellbeing Center expansion be presented to the ASI Board of Directors before any financial decisions are finalized

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: the ASI Board of Directors advocates for a consistent campus-wide effort to destigmatize the discussion surrounding emotional, physical, and mental wellbeing for students, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: this resolution will be sent to President Jeffrey Armstrong, Vice President Dr. Keith Humphrey, Dean of Students Dr. Kathleen McMahon, Executive Director of Campus Health & Wellbeing Dr. David Harris, Director of Counseling Services Dr. Geneva Reynaga-Abiko, Assistant Director of Community Prevention & Intervention Services Dr. Hannah Roberts, and Director of Wellbeing & Health Education Genie Kim, Executive Director of ASI Marcy Maloney, and to the Cal Poly Foundation

Certified as the true and correct copy,
in witness thereof, I have set my hand
and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal
Poly Associated Students, Inc. this
_____ day of _____, 2017.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of
the Board of Directors at San Luis
Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students,
Inc. this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Attest:

ASI Secretary

Signed:
ASI Chair of the Board

Signed:
ASI President

Authored by:
Gianna Ciaccio, College of Science & Mathematics
Kevin Scott, College of Engineering