



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 68-63

The Student Senate
68th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Chase Archer '19, Communications Major
Jonathan Wei '17, Supply Chain Management Major

Sponsored By: Speaker Pro Tempore Aubre Dean, Off-Campus Caucus

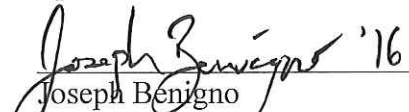
Action Taken

PASSED

Certified By:


Aaron Mitchell
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved:


Joseph Benigno
Student Body President

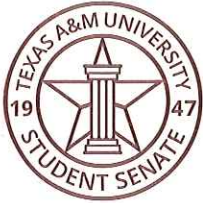
Mental Health Services Improvement Bill

"A bill recommended an increase in counselors at Texas A&M University and advocating for a statewide policy be created in regards to the University's handling of at risk identified students."

Whereas(1): Texas A&M Counseling services employs 31 counselors. The International Association of Counseling Services calls for a counselor to student ratio of 1 to every 1,000; and,

Whereas(2): Texas A&M's current ratio is 1 for every 1,778 students. Students face a 3 to 4 week average waiting period when seeking assistance; and,

Whereas(3): Currently no firm state policy exists regarding University action when a student poses a threat to themselves or others as assessed by University counseling staff.



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Senate Resolution S.B. 68-63 – Page 2 of 2 Further Certified By:

Aaron Mitchell
Speaker of The Student

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(1): Adding counseling staff would reduce wait times and increase the amount of students able to be seen per week. Therefore, it is recommended that Texas A&M University establish a holistic increase in the counselor to student ratio to increase accessibility for a larger number of students within a by the 2017-2018 school year; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted (2): That it shall be the official policy of the Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body of Texas A&M University, to advocate at the state legislature to establish a threshold or criterion under which students with mental health issues who pose a threat to themselves or others ought to temporarily withdraw from the University to seek treatment; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted(3): As the official policy of the Student Government Association, the advocacy of this policy change also be discussed with other Legislative Relations affiliates from other Texas institutes of Higher Education by the Legislative Relations Vice President and the Legislative Relations Commission; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted(4): A copy of this bill be sent to:

- John Sharp, Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System
- Michael Young, President of Texas A&M University
- The Board of Regents
- Dr. Daniel Pugh, Vice President of Student Affairs
- Dr. Maggie Gartner, Executive of Counseling Services
- State Senator Dr. Charles Schwertner, District 5
- State Representative Kevin Roberts, District 126