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Date of First Reading:

A Resolution-

To be known as "The Mental Health Statement on Course Syllabi Resolution," calling for all Texas State University faculty members to include a mental health statement on all course syllabi to increase awareness of campus resources that offer mental health services.

WHEREAS: The Student Government of Texas State University represents all students; and

WHEREAS: There are an estimated 9.8 million adults aged 18 or older in the United States with a serious mental illness (SMI), according to the National Institute of Mental Health, 2014; and

WHEREAS: A 2012 study by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) cited that 50 percent of college students with mental health problems who withdrew from school because of their mental health issues never accessed college mental health services; and

WHEREAS: The faculty members of Texas State University play an important role in the lives of students that extends beyond the teaching of course material; and

WHEREAS: It is the responsibility of Texas State University administration, faculty, and staff to ensure the availability of resources for students to be successful; and

WHEREAS: The Texas State University Counseling Center provides a multitude of services to prevent and treat mental health issues; and

WHEREAS: The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs requires all faculty at Texas State University to distribute course syllabi to their students via printed or electronic copy; and

WHEREAS: Texas State University advises all faculty members to include syllabi statements that address academic misconduct and available resources for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS: The inclusion of a mental health statement on all course syllabi will increase awareness of campus resources that offer treatment for mental health issues; and

WHEREAS: A mental health statement on course syllabi may also encourage classroom conversations that help to reduce the

stigma associated with accessing mental health care and seeking professional help; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: That Student Government officially supports the initiative to include either of the following statements on course syllabi:

"Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Statement

Students may experience diminished mental health due to significant stress, mood changes, excessive worry, or problems with eating and/or sleeping. This can interfere with optimal academic performance. This course of symptoms might be related to relationships, family worries, loss, or a personal struggle or crisis that might contribute to decreased academic performance.

Texas State University provides free mental health services through the Counseling Center to help students manage personal challenges that threaten their personal or academic wellbeing.

If you or someone you know is in need of support, contact the Counseling Center at (512)-245-2208 or counselingcenter@txstate.edu. You may visit their office in the LBJ Student Center located in Room 5-4.1

on the Texas State University San Marcos campus (601 University Drive), or you may visit their website at <https://counseling.txstate.edu>. They may be contacted Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. during university days of operation.

Students at the Texas State University Round Rock campus may access Counseling Center services offered at the Round Rock Student Health Center in the Nursing Building Room 116 (1555 University Boulevard). Counseling is available Wednesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., during university days of operation.

Students in need of urgent psychological assistance should call the Avail Crisis Hotline (Toll Free) at 1-877-466-0660 and inform them that you are a Texas State University student. Students may also contact the police by calling 911. You may find more crisis information at <https://www.counseling.txstate.edu/crisis/html>."

OR

"Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Statement

As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning. These mental health concerns or personal issues may lead to diminished academic performance and may affect your ability to participate in daily activities. Texas State University Counseling Center provides free and confidential mental health services on the San Marcos and Round Rock campus. You can learn more about available campus resources via the Counseling Center website at <https://counseling.txstate.edu> or by calling (512)-245-2208 during university hours and days of operation."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Student Government recommends that the administration of Texas State University require every academic department to include a mental health statement on their course syllabi; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That every academic department require their faculty to include one of the two approved statements on their syllabi; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this statement be placed in the course syllabi following the Honor Code statement

and special accommodation/disability statement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Student Government will continue to actively promote the wellbeing of all students by calling on faculty and administration to adopt this language; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Mental Health Statement on Course Syllabi be implemented effective the Spring of 2017 if this legislation passes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon passage, this piece of legislation be forwarded to Student Body President Andrew Homann for further action.