



## Council Resolution (CR01) Continuing Support of Mental Health



**WHEREAS**, the Graduate Student Association of the University of California, San Diego (GSAUCSD), which represents approximately 6000 graduate and professional students, is committed to ensuring adequate mental health care coverage for students;

**WHEREAS**, 42.9% of the graduate student respondents from the 2014 Graduate and Professional Student Experience Satisfaction (GPSES) survey indicated that they have thought about or already sought mental health care services [\[1\]](#);

**WHEREAS**, 38.5% of graduate student respondents who had thought about seeking mental health services from the 2014 GPSES survey indicated that they did not utilize Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) for reasons including long wait times, limited services, and forced off-campus referrals;

**WHEREAS**, the ratio of psychiatrists to students at UC San Diego is highly unfavorable compared to other UC schools, ranking in the bottom three out of ten UC schools [\[2\]](#);

**WHEREAS**, in August 2014, the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) announced that the student services fee would be increased and 50% of resulting funds would be allocated to mental health [\[3\]](#);

**WHEREAS**, in November 2014 the UC Regents approved up to a 5% increase in tuition and student services fees for the next five years, 50% of which was earmarked for critical mental health resources, resulting in approximately \$17.4 million for new psychologists and psychiatrists [\[4,5\]](#);

**WHEREAS**, due to negotiations with California Governor Jerry Brown, these fee increases were temporarily put on hold but are in effect as of the 2015-2016 school year;

**WHEREAS**, students who were enrolled in the UC Graduate Student Health Insurance Plan (GSHIP) for AY '13-'14 paid an additional \$31.11 per quarter to pay down any future deficit in SHIP;

**WHEREAS**, SHIP is no longer run under this model and risk is now pooled across the UC system, alleviating the burden on the campus to cover any future deficit with this reserve;



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**WHEREAS**, the \$391,208 in surplus reserves that was generated by this deficit planning was held by Student Health and Wellness (SHW) where it was not gaining interest;

**WHEREAS**, in Spring 2015 GSAUCSD authorized \$259,050 to be allocated from the 2013-14 GSHIP surplus to hire an additional psychiatrist position at 1.0 FTE for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and the remaining funds from the surplus be used to reduce premiums in the 2015-2016 school year;

**WHEREAS**, due to the arrival of the fee increase this money was no longer necessary to pay for the full year;

**WHEREAS**, a reduction in premiums using the full \$391,208 GSHIP surplus would result in a one-time decrease of only \$70 (2.3%) per student over the year, which represents roughly 2.3% of the current premium [\[6\]](#);

**WHEREAS**, the fee increase takes place over the course of multiple years, and the full allotment of the funds is not yet available to SHW;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that GSAUCSD allocates money from the GSHIP surplus to fund a 1.0 FTE psychologist position until the surplus runs out, approximately one-and-a-half (1.5) years, on the terms that this psychologist be designated to work exclusively with graduate students;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these terms will be expressed in a written agreement (Memorandum of Understanding, MOU) to be signed by the GSA President, the GSA Vice President Student and Campus Affairs, the Director of CAPS, and the Executive Director of Student Health and Well-Being;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the GSAUCSD President has the authority to release the funds once the MOU has been signed;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the GSAUCSD President is instructed to call a special session of GSAUCSD if necessary to resolve issues in the implementation of the plan put forth in this resolution.



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[1] [2014 GSA GPSES Preliminary Report](#)

[2] [2012 UC Mental Health Staffing Ratios](#)

[3] [The Regents of UC Meeting Minutes, January 21st 2015](#)

[4] [The Regents of UC Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, November 19th 2014](#)

[5] [The Regents of UC Committee on Health Services Meeting Minutes, January 22nd 2015](#)

[6] [UCSD Student Health Insurance Plan 2015-2016](#)

**Voted and Passed in GSA Council Meeting #2: 10/19/15 (Y/N/A - 41/1/0)**

**Certified: Lindsay M. Freeman, 10/20/15**