

## **Council Resolution 07 (CR07): Support of Expanding Mental Health Services**



**WHEREAS**, the Graduate Student Association of the University of California, San Diego (GSAUCSD), which represents approximately 5600 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 and Satisfaction (GPSES) survey indicated that they have thought about or already sought mental health care services [\[1\]](#);

**WHEREAS**, 38.5% of the 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**, in 2005 the Student Mental Health Oversight Committee (SMHOC) was created to study mental health in the UC system and decided that \$43 million would be needed yearly to adequately address the mental health needs of students; only \$12.6 million was awarded before this was removed as part of the budget cuts in 2008 [\[2\]](#);

**WHEREAS**, the University of California Student Association (UCSA) passed a resolution in 2014 outlining the importance and urgency of allocating additional funds for increasing the availability and accessibility of mental health services on UC campuses [\[3\]](#);

**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 [\[4\]](#);

**WHEREAS**, in November 2014 the UC Regents approved a 5% increase in tuition and student services for the next five years, resulting in approximately \$17.4 million for new psychologists and psychiatrists [\[5, 6\]](#);

**WHEREAS**, on February 18th 2015, all tuition and fee increases were put on hold pending UC budget negotiations with Governor Jerry Brown and the California legislature [\[7\]](#);

**WHEREAS**, the division of UCSD Student Health & Wellness (SHW) used money from their reserves in '14-'15 to partially fund their approved 2.0 psychiatry full-time equivalents (FTE) during that time period;

**WHEREAS**, these positions are now permanently funded but no additional positions were approved;

**WHEREAS**, the ratio of psychiatrists to students at UCSD is highly unfavorable compared to other UC schools, ranking in the bottom three out of the ten UC schools [\[8\]](#);

**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;

**WHEREAS**, the \$391,208 in surplus reserves that was generated by this deficit planning is being held by SHW where it is not gaining interest;

**WHEREAS**, approximately \$259,050 will be needed to fund an additional 1.0 FTE psychiatrist for one year;

**WHEREAS**, there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Student Affairs and Health System regarding the transfer of SHW that establishes an Advisory Committee, hereafter referred to as the SHWAC, charged by the Chancellor to provide SHW assessment reports [\[9\]](#);

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that GSAUCSD requests that any psychiatry FTEs currently funded on SHW reserves be funded by the Office of the Chancellor until UCOP mental health funding is allocated;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that GSAUCSD authorizes funds to be allocated from the 2013-14 Graduate SHIP surplus to hire an additional psychiatrist position at 1.0 FTE for the 2015-2016 fiscal year contingent upon the following conditions;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that SHWAC shall meet at least once per year and be provided with a financial report from SHW;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that earmarked funds from UCOP's proposed increase in fees and tuition that are given to UCSD for mental health services be reported;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the remaining Graduate SHIP reserve funds be used to reduce GSHIP premiums for enrolled students during 2015-2016 school year;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these terms will be expressed in a written agreement to be signed by SHW and GSAUCSD;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that after the 2015-2016 school year, the funding for the additional 1.0 FTE position created by the GSAUCSD allocation of funds will be taken over by the Office of the Chancellor until the portion of the student services fee dedicated to mental health is allocated from UCOP or explicitly dedicated from another source;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these terms will be expressed in a written agreement to be signed by the Chancellor and SHW;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the funds from GSHIP surplus will not be released until both of these agreements have been signed by the parties involved;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the GSAUCSD President has the authority to assess these documents and release the funds once the agreements have been signed;

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

**Voted and Passed in GSA Council Meeting 13: 5/4/2015 (Y/N/A – 40/0/0)**

**Certified: Jonathan M. Monk, 5/5/2015**

[1] [http://gsa.ucsd.edu/files/gpses/gpses\\_2014\\_preliminary\\_report.pdf](http://gsa.ucsd.edu/files/gpses/gpses_2014_preliminary_report.pdf)

[2] [http://www.ucop.edu/student-affairs/\\_files/student-mental-health-cmte-report2006.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/student-affairs/_files/student-mental-health-cmte-report2006.pdf)

[3] <http://ucsa.org/ucsa-resolutions/>

[4] <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/minutes/2015/cw121.pdf>

[5] <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/minutes/2014/fin11.pdf>

[6] <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/minutes/2015/h1.pdf>

[7] <http://www.ucop.edu/president/public-engagement/usc-pullias-feb-2015.html>

[8] [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_Wml\\_ZWEgX3d2ZyTktfNzJTR29oR1R2RVk5Z3IERHhVOWtB/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_Wml_ZWEgX3d2ZyTktfNzJTR29oR1R2RVk5Z3IERHhVOWtB/view)

[9] <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzhVj6GzXwu7Y0J6TjVvM3J4Mkk/view?usp=sharing>