

A resolution allocating funding to the Psychology Clinic for a student fee-free pilot program

Presented on the 21st of March 2019

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WHEREAS, The Psychology Clinic provides a number of important mental health support services to students on campus; including psychological assessments, group therapy, and individual therapy;¹ **AND**

WHEREAS, Due to their unique qualifications, the Psychology Clinic is able to provide certain services for student patients with intensive needs that other on-campus providers of mental health support services are unable to provide at the same level, such as critical diagnostic assessments and treatment for student patients with severe mental illness;² **AND**

WHEREAS, Other on-campus providers of mental health support services, such as Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the College of Education Counseling and Testing Center charge no fees for students to utilize their services;³ **AND**

WHEREAS, The Psychology Clinic charges student patients for therapy sessions they receive and psychological assessments that the Psychology Clinic performs;⁴ **AND**

WHEREAS, The Psychology Clinic receives roughly \$5,000 per academic year in fees from student patients for such services;⁵ **AND**

WHEREAS, Due to increasing demand for mental health support services on campus, all three providers of mental health support services on campus have experienced increasing waitlists for their services;⁶ **AND**

¹ clas.wayne.edu/psychclinic/

² Meeting with Dr. Douglas Barnett, Director of the WSU Psychology Clinic

³ *The South End* Article: [CAPS swamped, students wait weeks for psychological services](#)

⁴ clas.wayne.edu/PsychClinic/contact

⁵ Email from Dr. Douglas Barnett, Director of the WSU Psychology Clinic

⁶ *The South End* Article: [CAPS swamped, students wait weeks for psychological services](#)

WHEREAS, Due to resource constraints, the three providers of mental health support services on campus have begun to pool resources and share waitlists by referring patients to each other in an effort to reduce the wait times students face in order to access such services;⁷ **AND**

WHEREAS, Student patients can not easily move on and off the shared waitlist between the three on-campus providers of mental health support services when one provider charges students for the services it provides but the others do not; **AND**

WHEREAS, The cost for accessing services at the Psychology Clinic presents a significant barrier to students that prevents them from utilizing the services they provide, and thus relieving the shared waitlist; **AND**

WHEREAS, Due to the growing mental health crisis on college campuses, the need to expand access to on-campus mental health support services has never been greater;⁸ **AND**

WHEREAS, Research has shown the tremendous positive impact that access to on-campus mental health support services has on advancing student success;⁹ **AND**

WHEREAS, it is the core mission of the Wayne State University Student Senate to support initiatives that promote student success and expand access to student support services on campus; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Wayne State University Student Senate has made a commitment to supporting access to mental health support services on campus.¹⁰

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wayne State University Student Senate will provide \$5,500 in funding to the Psychology Clinic as a pilot program for the 2019-2020 academic year to offset the cost for providing services to student patients; **AND**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Psychology Clinic will thus cease charging students for utilizing their services during the 2019-2020 academic year; **AND**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Psychology Clinic will assess the feasibility of the pilot program at least once during the 2019-2020 academic year, and once after the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

⁷ *The South End* Article: [CAPS swamped, students wait weeks for psychological services](#)

⁸ [jedfoundation.org/psychiatric times the crisis in college and university mental health/](#)

⁹ [CAPS data on student success as a result of service utilization](#)

¹⁰ The Student Senate hosted “CAPS Week” and lobbied for a doubling of funding to CAPS in 2016

AND FINALLY BE IT ORDERED, that the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this resolution to all relevant outlets, including the University President, the University Provost, the members of the Board of Governors, and the President of the Wayne State University Academic Senate.

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Stuart Baum
President

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Dalia Ibrahim
Vice President