

To: University Senate
From: Michael Frank, University Senator (Undergraduate)
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A RESOLUTION to recommend the inclusion of a mental health statement on course syllabi

LEAD SPONSOR: Michael Frank

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WHEREAS Pursuant to §3335-5-41-B of the University Faculty Rules, “The university senate, subject to the authority of the board of trustees, shall have the power [t]o consider, to make recommendations concerning, and (in pursuance of rules pertaining to the university) to act upon matters relating to the rights, responsibilities, and concerns of students, faculty, administrators, and staff”; and

WHEREAS The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that 18.1% of U.S. adults suffer from some form of mental illness,¹ and

WHEREAS 95% of college counseling center directors surveyed said the number of students with significant psychological problems is a growing concern in their center or on campus,² and

WHEREAS The Ohio State University Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) provides a multitude of resources to prevent and treat mental illness,³ and

WHEREAS The Office of Academic Affairs requires all faculty at The Ohio State University to distribute course syllabi to their students, and

WHEREAS The Ohio State University advises all faculty members to include syllabi statements that address academic misconduct and disability services,^{4 5} and

WHEREAS course syllabi are a form of communication that reaches nearly every student, and

¹ <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/prevalence/index.shtml>

² <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2013/06/college-students.aspx>

³ <http://ccs.osu.edu/about-us-and-our-services/>

⁴ <https://oaa.osu.edu/coamfaqs.html#academicmisconductstatement>

⁵ <http://http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/faculty-staff/syllabus-statement/>

WHEREAS unaddressed mental health concerns can harm a student's classroom performance, academic progress, and general wellbeing;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate encourages all instructors and academic units to include a mental health statement on course syllabi, similar to the following sample prepared by CCS:

Mental Health Services:

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the **Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS)** by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-- 292--5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614--292--5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1--800--273--TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.