



NDSA-08-2425

A Resolution in Support of Mental Health Task Forces and Committees Across all NDUS Campuses

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

WHEREAS, In the 2023-2024 Healthy Minds Survey, 38% of surveyed students reported moderate or severe depressive symptoms, 34% of surveyed students reported moderate or severe anxiety symptoms, and 50% of surveyed students reported lifetime diagnoses of mental disorders^[1]; and,

WHEREAS, in February 2022, the NDSA passed NDSA-12-2122: A Resolution Supporting the Prioritization of Mental Health Programs and Funding for the North Dakota University System; and,

WHEREAS, in October 2024, the NDSA passed NDSA-01-2425: A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 25-27 Biennium, which included "Expanding mental health resources on NDUS campuses"; and,

WHEREAS, the NDSA has a strong history of supporting the mental health needs of students throughout the NDUS; and,

WHEREAS, mental health services should be a priority for all NDUS campuses as some students are not getting the help they may need, and while some institutions do have well-insulated mental health services, others struggle to maintain staffing and do not have the funding to maintain a program to adequately support the needs of their students; and,

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by American Council of Education (ACE) on Mental Health Task Forces in Higher Education, institutions created mental health task forces in response to student mental health needs and concerns of increased rates of depression and suicide among students, as well as promoting efforts to better understand students mental health, and the services available to them ^[2]; and,

WHEREAS, a task force or committee composed of the variety of mental health stakeholders on NDUS campuses would allow for efficient and effective intra-campus collaboration for pooling mental health resources, evaluating the use and scope of mental health resources offered, and identifying student mental health needs across campus; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NDSA supports NDUS institutions initiating mental health taskforces or committees composed of relevant and interested faculty, staff, student groups, and students to promote, assess, evaluate, and seek to improve mental health services on campus; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NDSA suggests that each NDUS institution's mental health task force should meet with campus student government groups on a regular basis to discuss any updates, concerns, needs, or desires that can be brought to the NDUS or the NDSA for further discussion.



[1]-

https://healthymindsnetwork.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/09/HMS_national_report_090924.pdf

[2]- <https://www.acenet.edu/News-Room/Pages/ACE-Report-Offers-Recommendations-for-Mental-Health-Task-Forces.aspx>

***Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly
Saturday, January 25th, 2025***