



Student Government Resolution 117.0023

**A Resolution Encouraging a Student Health Fee Increase to Provide Improved Resources
for Students**

**Sponsored by Sarah Holtmeyer, Vice President of the Student Association; Joe Slama,
Health Wellness and Safety Committee Chair and Voting Senator; and Caleb DeWitt,
Appropriations Chair and Voting Senator**

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- University Counseling Services was designed to operate as a short-term service, therefore requiring counselors to refer students to local, off-campus resources for longer-term needs; and
- The Student Health Fee was instituted in June 2005 to help fund the Student Health Center, including University Counseling Services, at \$25 per student per semester; and
- Since its creation, the fee has not increased since 2008-2009 academic year when it was raised to the current \$27 per academic semester; and
- Students of the University currently have no on-campus access to psychiatric or psychological resources which have proven a necessity for students in recent years; and
- According to UCS officials, students often encounter financial barriers under this current system when seeking care in the local community; and
- UCS officials report that many students cite financial reasons for not seeking care in the community at all, opting to rather continue seeing counselors at the University Counseling Services; and
- UCS officials have noted that lack of substantial financial backing impedes University Counseling Services from meeting students' needs; and
- According to the Missouri Assessment of College Health Behaviors 2017,¹ 60% of Truman students had suffered from anxiety in the past year, 29% from major depression, and 8.6% from eating disorders, among other psychiatric conditions; and
- According to the Missouri Assessment of College Health Behaviors 2017,² 22% of Truman students had considered suicide in the previous year, and 1.9% had attempted during that same time period;

¹ <http://trumanpip.truman.edu/files/2017/08/2017-MACHB-1.pdf>

² Ibid.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Supports raising the Student Health Fee by \$10 per academic semester to then total \$37 per academic semester; and
- Shall put forth this fee to the Student Association during Spring 2018 elections with ballot language that reads: “I support raising the Student Health Fee by \$10 per semester, to total \$37 per semester, to increase access to psychological and/or psychiatric care through University Counseling Services.”

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Truman State University Board of Governors; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Janet Gooch; Vice President of Enrollment Management, Regina Morin; Vice President of Student Affairs, Janna Stoskopf; Vice President for Administration, Finance & Planning, David Rector; Student Health Center Director, Brenda Higgins; the Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed by a Vote of 9-0-2, 4/8/2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kyra Cooper". The ink is dark and the signature is centered on the page.

President of the Student Association, Kyra Cooper