



Student Government Resolution 116.016
A Resolution in Support of an Additional University Counselor
Sponsored by the Student Government Health, Wellness and Safety Committee:
Zach Hollstrom, Chair, Korbin Keller, Elisabeth Condon, and Lucasana Barker

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
- During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, Truman State University Counseling Services provided direct counseling to 581 students¹; and
- During just the first half of the current fiscal year, University Counseling Services provided direct counseling to 400 students, which was a record for the most students served by UCS for the first half of the year; and
- This demonstrates a significant increase in the amount of students seeking care from University Counseling Services; and
- In order to meet the needs of the growing number of students seeking University Counseling Services, an additional counselor may be able to reduce wait time between counseling sessions and increase availability of counselors to meet with their students; and
- The mental health and well-being of Truman students is a priority for the university and The Student Government; and
- Adding an additional counselor is in line with one of the University's recognized duties in the 2015-2016 general catalog to, "provide a physical environment and support services that will help members of the University achieve their educational goals and enhance their social and physical development."²; and
- The University has officially allocated funds to hire an additional counselor by the Fall 2016 semester to meet the needs of students utilizing University Counseling Services; and
- The University has also made the decision to create a case manager position to help manage the immediate needs of students; and
- These decisions are likely to help University Counseling Services to continue their excellent counseling for students, to provide more frequent and regular care, and to manage the increasing amount of students who are seeking their services.

¹ http://ucs.truman.edu/files/2015/06/UCS_Annual_Report_2014.pdf

² <http://catalog.truman.edu/>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

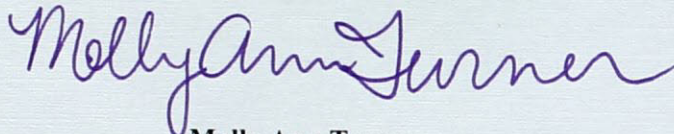
- That the Student Government voices its support for allocating funds to hire a new counselor by the Fall 2016 semester and for creating a case manager position for University Counseling Services; and
- Recognizes the University's commitment to use resources for an important resource for improving student's mental health and general well-being; and
- Recognizes the University's continued willingness to make student health a priority.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTS THAT,

- Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to University President, Troy Paino; The Board of Governors; Vice President of Student Affairs, Lou Ann Gilchrist; Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sue Thomas; Director of the Department of Public Safety, Sara Holzmeier; Director of the Student Health Center and University Counseling Services, Brenda Higgins; Assistant Director of University Counseling Services, Joe Hamilton; Director of Disability Services, Michelle Blakely; Director of Residence Life, John Gardner; University Archives; and the Truman Media Network.

Passed on February 21, 2016

Approved by 14-0-8-0



Molly Ann Turner
President of the Student Association