



# Student Congress

## Student Association at Binghamton University

### S2016-13/R: Resolution on Improving University Counseling Center to Accommodate Student Need

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**Whereas**, the University Counseling Center (UCC) provides comprehensive preventive and clinical services to Binghamton University's undergraduate students and therefore enhances the psychological well-being of undergraduate students so they can take full advantage of the educational opportunities at the University; and

**Whereas**, UCC offers these services free of charge to students; and

**Whereas**, services offered by UCC have higher costs and are harder to access at off-campus providers, thus posing health and financial burdens for students; and

**Whereas**, student demand for services offered by UCC has been steadily increasing over time, and is projected to keep increasing in the foreseeable future; and

**Whereas**, the UCC has actively taken measures to alleviate pressure of increasing demand, such as prioritizing waitlist, changing from weekly appointment to bi-weekly appointment, increasing group counseling offerings, and building referral networks with community providers; and

**Whereas**, student demand for services has outgrown UCC's ability to accommodate, and it has compromised students' access to care on campus; and

**Whereas**, it takes many students a long time to access care at UCC due to long waitlists, and many students have been referred off campus due to lack of staff availability at UCC; and

**Whereas**, Off-campus providers may require a co-pay, and may be physically or psychologically harder for students to access; and

**Whereas**, students' ability to access services and care provided by UCC is essential to enhance their psychological well-being so they can fully take advantage of educational opportunities at Binghamton University; and

**Whereas**, the majority of UCC's operating budget goes to hiring professional staff; and

**Whereas**, UCC is currently operating at full capacity of its staff; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Student Association strongly encourages the Binghamton University administration to take all necessary actions, including, but not limited to, increasing funding for the University Counseling Center so it can increase



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its professional staff, and increasing the efficiency of UCC's appointment scheduling system, in order to ensure the UCC's ability to provide adequate and prompt care for students that accommodates increasing student demand; and

**Resolved**, that upon the adoption of this resolution, the Student Association, on behalf of all undergraduate students, shall actively advocate, to the fullest extent, for the implementation of recommendations of this resolution by the university administration.

### Impact Statement

This resolution creates an official position of the Student Association that advocates for increased funding for the University Counseling Center (UCC) so that it can better accommodate increasing student demand.