

A Joint Resolution

PRESENTED BY THE

The Student Government Association & Graduate
Student Association Senate at the University of
Arkansas at Little Rock

Date: April 29th, 2021

Resolution Title: Joint resolution to request that a portion of the incoming CARES Act funding be allocated to the UA Little Rock Counseling Services

Authored by: SGA President DeKay, GSA President Snow

Sponsored by: SGA Senate & GSA Senate

SGA Senate Resolution:

GSA Senate Resolution:

Certified by: Molly Edwards
SGA Vice-President

Certified by: Imran Sarker
GSA Vice-President

Action Taken: **Passed**
(Senate) Failed

For SGA President's Use Only:

<i>Approve/Veto</i>	<u>Landon M. DeKay</u> <i>Signed</i>	<u>4/29/2021</u> <i>Date</i>
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For GSA President's Use Only:

<i>Approve/Veto</i>	<u>Natalie M. Snow</u> <i>Signed</i>	<u>04/29/2021</u> <i>Date</i>
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Whereas, mental health-related issues are the leading impediment to academic success, affecting motivation, concentration and social interactions,¹

Whereas, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the mental health-related issues of students at UA Little Rock,

Whereas, recent publications indicate that the occurrence of moderate-severe anxiety increased from 18.1% pre-pandemic to 25.3% within four months after the pandemic began; and the prevalence of moderate-severe depression increased from 21.5% to 31.7%,²

Whereas, leading psychologists argue that inadequate efforts to acknowledge college students' mental health challenges could have long-term consequences on their health and education,³

Whereas, recent studies analyzing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on students suggest that colleges and universities may be able to reduce the mental health consequences of Covid-19 by investing in resources to reduce difficulties with distance learning and social isolation during the pandemic,⁴

Whereas, after the third round of funding in 2021, UA Little Rock will have received approximately \$21 million in CARES Act funding, and

Whereas, any proposal submitted by UA Little Rock Counseling Services to increase CARES Act funding to their department, although a step in the right direction, is likely insufficient and should be increased further;

¹ Son, C., Hegde, S., Smith, A., Wang, X., & Sasangohar, F. (2020). Effects of COVID-19 on College Students' Mental Health in the United States: Interview Survey Study. *Journal of medical Internet research*, 22 (9), e21279. <https://doi.org/10.2196/21279>

² Cooley Freuwirth, J., Biswas, S. & Perreira, K.M. (2021). The Covid-19 pandemic and mental health of first-year college students: Examining the effect of Covid-19 stressors using longitudinal data..*PLoS ONE* 16 (3): e0247999. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0247999>

³ Browning MHEM, Larson LR, Sharaievska I, Rigolon A, McAnirlin O, et al. (2021) Psychological impacts from COVID-19 among university students: Risk factors across seven states in the United States. *PLOS ONE* 16 (1): e0245327. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0245327>

⁴ Cooley Freuwirth, J., Biswas, S. & Perreira, K.M. (2021). The Covid-19 pandemic and mental health of first-year college students: Examining the effect of Covid-19 stressors using longitudinal data..*PLoS ONE* 16 (3): e0247999. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0247999>

Therefore, let it be Resolved, the Student Government Association and Graduate Student Association at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock calls upon all respective bodies to increase support for the UA Little Rock Counseling Services using CARES Act funding to meet the increasing needs of the student body.