Support for the Improvement of Student Health Services and Counseling and Psychological Services Facilities

Sponsors:  
Lauryn Windham  
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Vote Necessary: Majority

Intent: To express the support of the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) for continued planning for expanded facilities for the Student Health Services (SHS) and Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS).

Whereas, during FY 2015 approximately 80% of students used SHS at least once per year and approximately 1,300 current students are clients being served by CPS clinical services; and,

Whereas, the accessible and quality health care that SHS and CPS provides and the convenience of their location on campus is integral to improving and maintaining the health and well being of current students; and,

Whereas, the health of students is an important factor in student success; and,

Whereas, current enrollment has grown by 2,000 students since 2010, and the MSU Strategic Plan anticipates further student enrollment growth to at least 16,000 by 2019; and,

Whereas, the Swingle Building, which houses the entirety of Student Health, opened in 1956 with an additional space added in 1970; and,

Whereas, during the most recent accreditation visits in September 2014 and January 2012 respectively, both the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care and the International Association of Counseling Services have noted serious deficiencies with the physical facilities; and,

Whereas, in the Fall of 2014, MSU Facilities Services conducted an internal facilities needs assessment, which determined that the current facility is inadequate and requires at least a 50% increase in space in order to serve the population of students at that time; and,

Whereas, many clinical spaces of SHS and CPS are too small to provide care properly, efficiently, and confidentially; and,

Whereas, there is no plan for the SHS/CPS building in MSU’s current 25 year building plan; and,
Whereas, the MSU Strategic Plan anticipates further student enrollment growth, and SHS and CPS are both integral factors in recruiting future students, as well as student retention; and,

Whereas, although SHS and CPS have implemented a number of productivity improvements to accommodate a larger student population, the increased demand has led to longer wait times and a decreased capacity to provide timely services; and,

Whereas, due to the convenience SHS and CPS provide, SHS and CPS are both integral factors in recruiting future students, as well as maintaining the health and well being of students, both current and future.

Therefore, let it be resolved that: the Associated Students of Montana State University support continued planning and efforts towards updating, improving, or relocating Student Health Services and Counseling and Psychological Services to better serve the students of Montana State University.

Let it be further resolved that: a copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. Waded Cruzado, MSU President; Jim Mitchell, Director of Student Health Service; Dr. Pat Donahoe, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services; Dr. Chris Fastnow, Director of Office of Planning and Analysis; Dr. Kregg Aytes, Chair of University Facilities Planning Board; Terry Leist, Vice President for Administration and Finance; Dr. Chris Kearn, Vice President for Student Success; Dr. Matt Caires, Dean of Students; Robert Lashaway, Associate Vice President for University Services; Walt Banzinger, Director of Campus Planning Design & Construction; Levi Birky, ASMSU President; Marianne Brough, Director of Operations; and Erin Murdock, MSU Exponent.