

Passed by Unanimous
Consent 10/11/12

AR 4 In Support of Suicide Prevention Week

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WHEREAS, At The University of Texas at Austin, 58 percent of undergraduate students and 51 percent of graduate students report having some form of suicidal thinking at some point in their lives; andⁱ

WHEREAS, At The University of Texas at Austin, 15 percent of undergraduate students and 14 percent of graduate students say that they have seriously considered attempting suicide at some point in their lives; andⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, At The University of Texas at Austin, eight percent of undergraduate students and three percent of graduate students have attempted suicide at some point in their lives; andⁱⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, Suicide is considered to be the second-leading cause of death among college students; and^{iv}

WHEREAS, The University has an established suicide prevention program, entitled "Be That One," which advocates "suicide prevention through education, outreach, and peer support;" and^v

WHEREAS, The University's efforts in preventing suicide include its annual Suicide Prevention Week, to be held from September 24 to September 28, which is "dedicated to raising awareness about suicide and suicidal behaviors among our students;" and^{vi}

WHEREAS, Suicide Prevention Week will feature a suicide prevention workshop, a session instructing how to prevent suicide via social networking sites, presentations on how to help fellow students, friends, and co-workers and how to cope with the aftermath of a student death by suicide, a viewing and discussion of the film "True Stories of Help and Hope", and displays discussing mental health stigma and statistics on mental health, and^{vii}

WHEREAS, Students who are considering suicide most commonly tell their friends first, followed by their partner, family members, then professionals, showing that friends are the first line of defense in suicide prevention; therefore^{viii}

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin believes that it is crucial for students to be well educated about suicide prevention because students can help prevent suicide by seeking help from others when needed and learn how to reach out to peers in crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin applauds the Counseling and Mental Health Center and many other campus partners for

their work in bringing Suicide Prevention Week to campus, and urges students to involve themselves in the week's events and in the work the center does to prevent suicide on our campus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the President, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Counseling and Mental Health Center, Office of the Vice President for University Operations, Texas Parents Association, Office of Student Financial Services, Division of Housing and Food Services, Division of Recreational Sports, Dean of Students, Faculty Council, Staff Council, Graduate Student Assembly, TWLOHA- Texas U-Chapter, The Tejas Club, University of Texas Police Department, University Health Services, UT Wellness Network, University Residence Hall Association, Multicultural Engagement Center, Services for Students with Disabilities, Gender and Sexuality Center, Student Veterans Services, and School of Social Work.

ⁱ National Research Consortium of Counseling Centers in Higher Education, Suicide Ideation Survey. Results for The University of Texas at Austin, spring 2011.

ⁱⁱ National Research Consortium of Counseling Centers in Higher Education, Suicide Ideation Survey. Results for The University of Texas at Austin, spring 2011.

ⁱⁱⁱ National Research Consortium of Counseling Centers in Higher Education, Suicide Ideation Survey. Results for The University of Texas at Austin, spring 2011.

^{iv} Suicide.org. <http://www.suicide.org/college-student-suicide>.

^v Be That One program website, <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/bethatone/>.

^{vi} Suicide Prevention Week promotional materials.

^{vii} Suicide Prevention Week promotional materials.

^{viii} Information from Marian Trattner and from a publication of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center. http://www.sprc.org/featured_resources/customized/college_student.asp.