



Increased Inclusion of Resident Ministers in Student Residence Halls

Resolution 20-21-16

Whereas: the University of San Francisco's core Jesuit values call upon cura personalis, or 'care for the entire person,' including both the physical and mental wellbeing of students, both in and out of residence halls; and

Whereas: the University of San Francisco is committed to cultivating and fostering an environment that works to promote equitable and accessible student mental health services; and

Whereas: the University of San Francisco's Counseling and Psychological Center aims to provide students with mental health services that allow them to improve and maintain their mental well-being and to meet their educational, personal, emotional and spiritual goals¹; and

Whereas: the University's Counseling and Psychological Center staff is only accessible to students during their designated office hours; and

Whereas: students facing mental health crises 'after hours' are directed to the CAPS All Hours Hotline; and

Whereas: in the case a mental health crisis does occur, Resident Advisors are typically the first to respond until the arrival of a professional residence hall staff member; and

Whereas: responding to critical mental crises may create adverse effects within the mental well-being of Resident Advisors;

"It has been a year since I was an RA at USF and I am still haunted by the images I saw while on duty in the dorms. As RAs, we are always first to the scene because of the way on-duty calling works. We are always sent in first to investigate. This has caused many of my fellow RAs and I to have experienced truly traumatizing events including our fellow classmates trying to take their lives in front of our eyes. We are RAs, we are workers for the school, we are students. We are not therapists, psychologists, or trained mental crisis responders....RAs are always the first to the scene but have extremely limited training on mental health crises that occur far too often in our stress-filled environment." - Former USF R.A.

¹ <https://myusf.usfca.edu/caps/mission-statement>



Whereas: the mental health training provided to Resident Advisors is limited and does not include acquiring the sole responsibility of responding to issues that require extensive expertise and experience; and

Whereas: each residence halls has at least one graduate Resident Minister living within the building at all times, with one residing in Pedro Arrupe and the remaining residing on upper campus; and

Whereas: Resident Ministers are some of the few individuals within residential dorm buildings that have both the QPR Suicide Prevention Training and Mental Health First Responder Training; and

Whereas: Resident Ministers are currently not notified of mental health crises that occur within their designated halls; and

Whereas: there is a disconnect between Resident Ministers and students living in the residence halls given the lack of knowledge surrounding their resources and what their role entails; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Associated Students of the University of San Francisco Senate in its role as the sole representative body of all undergraduate students of the University of San Francisco, that the following be enacted:

Resolved: that Resident Ministers are called to respond to critical mental health crises in campus dormitories, in conjunction with Resident Advisors and Residence Directors; furthermore, be it

Resolved: that a rotating on-call system is instituted for Resident Ministers; furthermore, be it

Resolved: that University Ministry and Resident Ministers have a permanent space in New Student Orientations, specifically the portion pertaining to residence halls and residence hall staff, to elaborate on the services they can provide for students; furthermore, be it

Resolved: that Resident Hall staff actively promote the use of Resident Ministers through continuous collaboration and the inclusion of Resident Ministers in SHaRE staff marketing to provide full accessibility for students; therefore, be it



Resolved: that these changes be implemented prior to the 2021-2022 Academic school year.

Submitted by:

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Supported by:

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Presented to the Senate on:

April 28, 2021

Signed by: