



SR 021557

**A Resolution Supporting an Expansion or Relocation
of the Miami University Student Counseling Service**

James Oaks, Secretary for On-Campus Affairs
Christine Broda, Student At-Large
Haley Olvera, Off-Campus Senator

Authors

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Sponsors

Submitted to Student Senate on: September 27, 2016

- Whereas:** The Miami University Student Counseling Service (SCS) is a vital asset to this university.
- Whereas:** SCS accommodated 8678 appointments during the 2015-2016 and saw 11.1% of the student body in that academic year alone.
- Whereas:** Miami students have developed a deep trust with SCS staff, and on average, SCS holds 4.37 sessions per client.
- Whereas:** Senior staff members in SCS have expressed a need for additional space in order to operate more effectively.
- Whereas:** As the SCS team continues to grow, it is critical that their facilities must grow at a proportional rate.
- Whereas:** According to SCS, the student to staff ratio should be between 1000:1 and 1500:1.
- Whereas:** Enrollment and staffing numbers from 2015-2016 indicate that the current student to faculty ratio is 1700:1.
- Whereas:** During the 2015-2016 school year, the average wait time for individual counseling after an initial consultation was 17.94 days.
- Whereas:** When asked if SCS is equipped with adequate space to operate efficiently with current staff numbers, Dr. John Ward said, "No. Some staff members need to share office space, there is not adequate space for group counseling, some hours there is not enough seats/space in the waiting room, and insufficient space for specialized sessions such as testing, biofeedback, or meditation. We have no space for outreach activities (room space for presentations on-site, dog therapy events, or adequate storage for our supplies/brochures, etc.)."
- Whereas:** In 2015, the Healthy Minds Survey from the Miami University Student Counseling Service found that only 49 percent of all students felt that their mental and emotional well-being was a priority at their school.
- Whereas:** The same survey found that only 42 percent of students felt that the campus climate encourages free and open discussion about mental and emotional health.

Whereas: The 2016 Mental Health Forum, sponsored by the Associated Student Government, all three Greek governing bodies, and SCS drew a massive crowd and sparked a campus-wide interest in providing ample resources to treat mental health conditions.

Whereas: Mary Taylor, the 65th Lieutenant Governor of Ohio, commended the Mental Health Forum planning team for “starting the discussion on this very important topic.”

Therefore be it resolved: The Associated Student Government formally requests an exploratory committee be formed to investigate an expansion or relocation of the Miami University Student Counseling Service.

Further it be resolved: The Associated Student Government requests that the committee consist of the following individuals:

- James Oaks, ASG Secretary for On-Campus Affairs
- Christine Broda, Student at Large
- Dr. Gregory Crawford, President of Miami University
- Dr. Kip Alishio, Director of SCS
- Dr. Jennifer Young, Assistant Director for Outreach & Programming, SCS
- Dr. John Ward, Associate Director of SCS
- Matthew Frericks, Director for Auxiliary Construction & Planning
- John Seibert, Director of Planning, Architecture, and Engineering
- Two (2) Student Senators