Student Senate Resolution 2015-138

Title: Resolution Urging Instructors at the University of Florida to Include U Matter, We Care Information in All Course Syllabi

Authors: U Matter, We Care Ambassador Jason Feliciano, Senate President Susan Webster

Sponsor(s): Senator Kevin Rivera

WHEREAS, suicide rates in the United States have steadily increased over the past 13 years¹; and,

WHEREAS, as many as four suicides have taken place on University of Florida’s campus in a single semester within the last five years²; and,

WHEREAS, there are more than 1,000 suicides that occur on college campuses each year³; and,

WHEREAS, in the United States of America, on average someone will attempt suicide every 38 seconds⁴; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 31% of college students in the United States claim to have “felt so depressed that it was difficult to function” within the past twelve months⁵; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 84% of college students in the United States claim to have “felt overwhelmed by all [they] had to do” within the past twelve months⁶; and,

WHEREAS, suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people aged 25 to 34, and the third-leading cause of death among people age 15 to 24⁷; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges all University of Florida instructors to include information about the U Matter, We Care initiative in their course syllabi to help prevent future suicides at the University of Florida; and,

¹ http://www.collegedegree research.net/student-suicides/
² http://www.gainesville.com/article/20101214/ARTICLES/101219768?p=1&tc=pg
³ http://www.emorycaresforyou.emory.edu/resources/suicidestatistics.html
⁶ http://www.emorycaresforyou.emory.edu/resources/suicidestatistics.html
⁷
THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recommends that the following message be included in all future University of Florida course syllabi:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Proviso: University of Florida President Kent Fuchs, University of Florida Board of Trustees, University of Florida Faculty Senate, University of Florida Provost Joseph Glover, Dean of Students Jen Day Shaw

Susan Webster
Senate President

Date

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