



AS Board of Directors

Proposed Motion: Implementation of new Associated Students Committee, “Mental Health Committee”

Date: May 31st, 2019

Sponsor: ASVP for Student Life, Anne Lee

Persons of Contact: Dimetrieze Walker, Chloe McDougall, Liz Pronove, ASVP for Student Life, Anne Lee

Guest Speaker: [Insert, if applicable]

Background & Context

There is a significant gap of peer-to-peer support on campus and a culture of community building and care. The students proposing this committee, Dimetrieze Walker, Chloe McDougall, Liz Pronove are striving to implement a structure within the Associated Students, comprised of campus stakeholders, [Emily Gibson (Student Health Center), Brandon Joseph (Men’s Resiliency program), Tracy Dahlstedt-Rienstra (CASAS, Peer Health Educator program), Lani Defiesta (AS President), Jennifer Cook (over sees AS clubs), AS VP for Student Services (Emily Gerhardt)] to initiate and continue a conversation regarding mental health and well-being. This includes, but isn’t limited, examining current structures of support, educational opportunities, and building cross-campus collaborations.

Summary of Proposal

Create an Associated Students committee that encompasses these intentions:

- Build connections across the institution to unite forces in addressing the problem of mental health and lack of community on campus.
- Discuss what a successful committee, strategy, and program would look like
- Discuss what we’ve been seeing in specific departments and experiences
- Feasibility of greater investment in counselors and mental health services
- Resources for increased advertisement and effective awareness campaigns
- Debrief on quantitative data (spending, effectiveness, demographics)
- Eventual goal:
 - WWU sending representative to intercollegiate mental health meetings to discuss common happenings, raise awareness, and brainstorm solutions. Collectively advocate for more government resources to prevent suicide, isolation, and loneliness.

Fiscal Impacts

N/A

Rationale

There is a significant gap of support on campus that this committee could effectively fill around suicide prevention, building community, and individual wellbeing.

