



Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

Senate Bill 330-

Resolution 330-

I, John Cho, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

Approve

Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation:

President, 330th Student Assembly (22-23)

DATE:

330th Student Assembly,
Senate Resolution 330-001

A Resolution

To recognize past mental health projects and to continually focus on improving mental wellness

The Mental Health Initiative Resolution

Sponsored by Class President Suhas Suddala ('22) & Senator Hashir Aqeel ('25)

Co-Sponsored by Class President Mia Tilman ('24), Senator Gloriana Cubero Fernandez ('24),
Senator Matthew Hwang ('25), Class President Yannic Chang ('25), Senator Sean Nguyen ('25),
Senator Jahnavi Prabhala ('22), Senator Hank Hermens ('22)

Supported by Attorney-General Rory Fedorochko ('22), Student Assembly Chief of Staff Owen Williams ('23), Senior Advisor for Community Engagement and Outreach Taylor Fox ('24), Student Assembly President John Cho ('23), Student Assembly Vice President Jasmin Martinez ('23)

WHEREAS, the stigma around mental illness and receiving help is a national problem affecting millions of individuals each year;

WHEREAS, college is a high-stress environment, further exacerbated by the pandemic and other factors;

WHEREAS, mental wellness is consistently prioritized by both the William & Mary community and the Student Assembly;

WHEREAS, the William & Mary Counseling Center is often subject to unsubstantiated criticism by the William & Mary community, leading to student hesitation in trusting resources;

WHEREAS, mental health-related issues are consistently brought forward to members of the Student Assembly from constituents;

WHEREAS, mental health resources off-campus can be expensive and difficult to access for students at the college;

WHEREAS, supporting mental health initiatives has been a consistent component of Student Assembly members' campaign promises and platforms;

WHEREAS, in Fall 2018 and Spring 2019, Student Assembly partnered with the Wellness Center to create a workshop called "Empowering Support: How to be a Peer, Friend, and Advocate" to assist students in having difficult conversations;

WHEREAS, in Fall 2019 and Spring 2020, Student Assembly worked with the Counseling Center to obtain years of counseling data and access the efficiency of the resources they offered;

WHEREAS, in Spring 2020 the Student Assembly presented their Counseling Center data analysis to the Board of Visitors, aiming to gain funding for additional therapists;

WHEREAS, in Fall 2021, the Student Assembly conducted the “Seize the Awkward Campaign” to initiate conversations about mental wellness and support students who are afraid and isolated;

WHEREAS, the Student Assembly has partnered with the Counseling Center to create a 2022 Annual Report that outlines wait times, performance metrics, and future projects to combat rumors about resources and encourage the usage of the Counseling and Wellness Centers;

WHEREAS, both the “Seize the Awkward Campaign” and Counseling Center Report Project were structured to be recurring, annual initiatives;

Now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Creates, in accordance with Article I, Section IV.VI of the Student Assembly Constitution, an Ad-Hoc Committee for Mental Wellness composed of the Secretary of Health and Safety, the Undersecretary of Mental Wellness, and ideally, at least one Senator from every social class and graduate school and selected community members. The Committee shall elect a chairperson to serve in October for the remainder of the academic year; the Secretary of Health and Safety shall serve as the chair until this election. The Committee shall meet at least twice a semester, and may meet more often should the Committee deem it appropriate.
2. The Committee can invite the President of the Student Assembly, the Vice President of the Student Assembly, the Chief of Staff of the Student Assembly, the Secretaries of the College Policy & Student Rights, Diversity Initiatives, Student Experience, Public Affairs and Outreach Departments, the Advisors of the Student Assembly, Staff from the Wellness and Counseling Centers, and any other interested parties to attend its meetings in a non-voting capacity at their convenience.
3. The Ad-Hoc Committee for Mental Wellness shall facilitate conversations on mental health matters and develop projects around mental wellness at William & Mary. Charges the committee with the following goals:
 - a. Actively collaborate with the Wellness Center and Counseling Center to cultivate a relationship with Student Assembly and understand and improve the state of mental health on campus.
 - b. Recruit members of HOPE, Active Minds, Mindversity, Wellness Ambassadors, and the general student body to join the Mental Wellness Ad-Hoc committee at the beginning of each semester to ensure diverse and inclusive perspectives for its projects.
 - c. Annually, create and disperse the Counseling Center Report with the help of the Outreach Department.
 - d. Explore opportunities to raise awareness of the vast resources available for students through the Counseling Center.
 - e. Continue monitoring the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of students, faculty, and administrators.
 - f. Present its annual work to the full Senate by the last meeting of each Senate session.

4. Recognizes the efforts of the William and Mary administration, Counseling Center, and Wellness Center in promoting mental wellness on campus.
5. Calls upon the William and Mary administration, Counseling Center, and Wellness Center to continue working with the Student Assembly to grow the mental health initiative and cultivate a safe and supportive community.
6. Further calls upon the William and Mary administration, Counseling Center, and Wellness Center to increase the transparency of its mental health resources and practices.