

**R W2017.12**

**A Resolution Establishing Mental Health Awareness Task Force and the Second Michigan Mental Health Day**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

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**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, mental health significantly impacts both the academic and the non-academic lives of all students on campus; and,

**Whereas**, lack of information on mental health and the stigma surrounding it “remain the number one barrier to [college] students seeking help,” according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (hereafter NAMI);<sup>2</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the World Health Organization (WHO) made October 10th “World Mental Health Day” in 1992, and it has been recognized as such ever since;<sup>3</sup> and,

**Whereas**, other universities, including Michigan State University, annually hold Mental Health days and weeks designed, “to release the stigma around mental health, educate students on resources available to them, and continue to advocate for increased mental health resources on campus”;<sup>4</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG worked alongside 14 different organizations to hold the first Michigan Mental Health Day in Fall 2016 consisting of three events that reached hundreds of students; and,

**Whereas**, the scope of the project is complex and large enough to merit a Task Force specifically to work towards managing multiple events and projects in order to help reduce stigma and educate students about mental health on campus.

**Be it therefore resolved**, LSA SG will establish the Mental Health Awareness Task Force (hereafter MHAT) which shall be housed under the Student Life Committee; and,

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

<sup>2</sup> NAMI “College Students Speak: A Survey Report On Mental Health” <https://www.nami.org/collegesurvey>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/world-mental-health-day/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/world-mental-health-day/en/)

<sup>4</sup> <http://asmsu.msu.edu/initiatives/mental-health-awareness-week-2/>

**Be it further resolved,** MHAT will partner with a variety of student organizations and campus resources, including, but not limited to, the University of Michigan Office of the Vice President for Student Life, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Dean's Office, CAPS, the Depression Center, the Sexual Assault Prevention Awareness Center (SAPAC), University of Michigan Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), Active Minds, Wolverine Support Network, the Central Student Government Commission on Student Health and Safety, and NAMI to continue the partnership of the previous year; and,

**Be it further resolved,** MHAT will decide whether hosting a single day or a week of events is better to promote the purpose of the task force; and,

**Be it further resolved,** MHAT will have its first official meeting on March 19th; and,

**Be it further resolved,** MHAT shall expire two weeks after the objectives are completed; and,

**Be it further resolved,** LSA SG shall allocate \$2,000 dollars from the General Fund to fund any expenditures for this event; and,

**Be it further resolved,** if for any reason this event fails to occur, LSA SG will retain the \$2,000 dollars; and,

**Be it finally resolved,** after the conclusion of the event, LSA SG shall review the success of the event and determine its status for the future while continuing to advocate for increased mental health resources on campus, as well as working to end the stigma surrounding mental health.

#### **Mental Health Awareness Task Force**

11.04.00 **Purpose.** The purpose of the Mental Health Awareness Task Force (MHAT) shall be to improve the status of mental health on campus and promote destigmatization through hosting a series of events relating to the World Mental Health Day.

11.04.01 **Duration.** MHAT shall be in force until two weeks after the objectives are completed. The MHAT's duration may be extended by a simple majority vote of the Government and an appropriate amendment to this section.

11.04.02 **Cooperation.** MHAT shall work with University of Michigan Office of the Vice President for Student Life, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Dean's Office, CAPS, the Depression Center, the Sexual Assault Prevention Awareness Center (SAPAC), University of Michigan Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), Active Minds, Wolverine Support Network, the Central Student Government Commission on Student Health and Safety, and any other relevant student organizations and administrative programs related to mental health.

11.04.03: **Chair/Vice Chair Duration.** Chair and Vice Chair shall serve from their initial election until the expiration of the task force.

11.04.04 **SLC Representation.** The Chair of SLC or another member of SLC shall attend MHAT. Likewise, the chair or any representative of MHAT shall represent MHAT in SLC.

11.04.05 **Duties.** MHAT shall be responsible for the following:

1. **Mental Health Day.** Creating a series of events in coordination with the World Mental Health Day to help promote destigmatization on campus.
2. **Coordinate with Student Organizations.** Work with other organizations to help them plan events related to the Mental Health Day.
3. **Awareness.** Work to promote awareness of mental health through any other available avenues that arise.