

Referenda 2021 Submission Form

Short Title: Northeastern Needs to Increase Mental Health Funding for UHCS

Sponsor: Active Minds at Northeastern

Introductory Clauses:

Northeastern's University and Counseling Services (UHCS) remains largely unequipped to handle the caseload of students who require mental health services. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has only decreased the bandwidth of clinicians and increased the stressors and residual trauma that students are faced with, and, as a result, increasing the overall demand for mental health services. According to data compiled by Students Working for an Accessible Northeastern (SWAN), Northeastern's clinician to student ratio ranks the worst out of all Boston-area schools, with approximately 1,792 students per clinician. This falls short of the International Association of Counseling Services' (IACS) standard of one counselor per 1,000 students.

Operative Clauses:

Adequate funding must be allocated in order to achieve and outperform the 1,000:1 clinician to student ratio set by IACS. Northeastern's UHCS must allocate additional funding to hire more clinicians who can properly serve and reflect the needs of the Northeastern student population. The utilization of these funds must be contingent upon UHCS's commitment to hiring clinicians of color at a level consistent with and reflective of the percentage of enrolled undergraduate and graduate students who identify as non-white, who can provide culturally sensitive care to Northeastern's diverse student body.

Ballot Question:

Should the Northeastern University Administration increase UHCS's mental health funding to hire more clinicians representative of the demographics of the Northeastern student body to reflect the needs of the student population?