Purdue University Student Governments
Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government

Joint Resolution 21-01
“A Resolution Calling for Mandatory QPR Training”

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PSG Passage Date: February 10, 2021
PGSG Passage Date: Feb 24th, 2021

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PSG Senate President: Hannah Darr

WHEREAS, according to a report done by Mental Health America, in 2020, 9.7% of youth in the United States have severe major depression¹; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health America reported that there was a 0.15% (or 460,000 person) increase in suicidal ideation among adults from 2019 to 2020; and

WHEREAS, according to Mental Health America, 60% of youth with depression do not receive any Mental Health treatment, whereas 24% of adults report an unmet need for Mental Health treatment; and

WHEREAS, during a Mental Health screening conducted by Mental Health America, in 2020, 8 in 10 people screened showed moderate to severe symptoms of both anxiety and depression; and

WHEREAS, according to the Mental Health Foundation, 75 percent of lifetime mental illnesses start by age 24²; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, suicide is the second leading cause of death in the United States among individuals ages 10 to 34³; and

¹ “The State of Mental Health in America” Mental Health America. (2020).
https://www.mhanational.org/issues/state-mental-health-america

² “Mental Health Statistics: Children and Young People” Mental Health Foundation. (2020).

³ “Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States” National Institute of Mental Health. (2018).
**WHEREAS**, according to Purdue University Police Department reports, in 2020, 2 Purdue students died by suicide and 3 additional students attempted suicide⁴; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Purdue Spokesperson Tim Doty, since 1998, Purdue has averaged 2 students dying by suicide a year⁵; and

**WHEREAS**, in a 2019 tabling event conducted by Purdue Student Government CSRA, Purdue students reported feeling a lack of empathy on campus and believe Purdue should do more to improve the emotional wellbeing among students; and

**WHEREAS**, instructors, TAs, and campus ombuds are more likely to notice signs of suicidal behavior in their students due to the amount of communication between them; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2018 case study on Mental Health Training for educators, training programs were effective in improving knowledge and attitudes towards Mental Health of students⁶; and

**WHEREAS**, a student-led movement at Purdue University named Occupy Hovde wrote a list of demands of the university including higher accountability for the professors⁷; and

**WHEREAS**, there are a variety of companies that conduct training and certification regarding Mental Health, one of those companies being the QPR Institute; and

**WHEREAS**, QPR Institute is an organization whose mission is “To save lives and reduce suicidal behaviors by providing innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training.”⁸; and

**WHEREAS**, QPR Gatekeeper Training consists of a one hour training session where the QPR-Trained Gatekeeper will learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide, know how to offer hope, and know how to get help and save a life; and

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⁴ Taylor, J., Smith J., & Weliever A. “Following a suicide, Purdue quiets social-media backlash after PUPD falsely reports 3” *Purdue Exponent*. (Nov. 20, 2020). [https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/article_d0d0d5b2-29f1-11eb-a243-a7b5f5a651ca.html](https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/article_d0d0d5b2-29f1-11eb-a243-a7b5f5a651ca.html)

⁵ Taylor, J., Smith J., & Weliever A. “Following a suicide, Purdue quiets social-media backlash after PUPD falsely reports 3” *Purdue Exponent*. (Nov. 18, 2020). [https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/article_d0d0d5b2-29f1-11eb-a243-a7b5f5a651ca.html](https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/article_d0d0d5b2-29f1-11eb-a243-a7b5f5a651ca.html)


WHEREAS, QPR Training is likely to increase sensitivity towards suicide and other mental health concerns for instructors and TAs on campus; and

WHEREAS, QPR Training for instructors and TAs on campus is likely to promote better trust and student-instructor relationships at the University; and

WHEREAS, Purdue students are more likely to confide in instructors and TAs and seek help if they are aware that they are properly trained.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED,
that the Mental Health Action Week, hereby called MHAW, Committee urges Purdue University to hold mandatory Mental Health Training and Certification at no cost for all Purdue University Instructors, Teaching Assistants, and campus ombuds; and

that the MHAW Committee recommends that this training and certification be conducted by the QPR Institute through their QPR Gatekeeper Training Program.

that the Purdue Student Government and the Purdue Graduate Student Government shall deliver this resolution to the University Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee for their consideration; and

that the Purdue Student Government and the Purdue Graduate Student Government shall deliver this resolution to the University Faculty Senate Faculty Affairs Committee for their consideration; and

that the Purdue Student Government and the Purdue Graduate Student Government shall deliver this resolution to the University Faculty Senate Educational Policy Committee for their consideration.

Signed by:

Madelina Nuñez
Student Body President

Rebecca Eli Long
Parliamentarian

Assata Gilmore
Student Senate President

Hannah Darr
Student Senate President