

Student Senate Resolution 2022-1: Mental Health

Whereas, Illinois Wesleyan University advocates that it is an institution that prioritizes their student's mental health and well-being; and

Whereas, Illinois Wesleyan University has seen a 52% increase in the utilization of Counseling & Consultation Services in the past year and a 60% increase in the utilization of Counseling and Consultation Services from the 2019-2020 school year to the 2020-2021 school year; and

Recognizing, that the global pandemic for COVID-19 has impacted student's mental health and well-being; and

Recognizing, that the racial injustices in our society have impacted students of color's mental health and well-being; and

Whereas, K-12 students have [five mental health day absences](#) across the State of Illinois creating a divergence between the high school and college transition;

Therefore, the Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate recommends that the University Calendar Committee review University non-class days in comparison to our peer institutions and revisits the academic calendar to instill an equal distribution of days off across both academic semesters; and

Therefore, the Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate recommends that the Provost, Dean of Faculty, and Academic Affairs leadership team in consultation with Council for University Programs and Policies (CUPP) and appropriate faculty committees create general guidelines for faculty in regards to course absence policies that are responsive to student mental health needs; and

Therefore, the Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate recommends that the Registrar's Office reviews University policies regarding the course withdrawal process, keeping in mind mental health stressors can occur throughout the semester; and

Therefore, the Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate recommends that the Dean of Students Office and appropriate staff review University staffing for Counseling and Consultation Services to meet the increasing student demand for mental health services; and

Therefore, the Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate recommends that President Nugent, University Cabinet members, faculty and staff review departmental and institutional policies and procedures that reflect Illinois Wesleyan's commitment to student mental health and well-being; and

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Therefore, be it resolved, that Illinois Wesleyan embraces a strong commitment to student mental health by the start of the Fall 2022 academic school year with tangible results of progress. Student Senate requests a progress report at our first meeting in September, 2022.