



Proposal on Support for Students Dealing with Difficult Life Conditions

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UNIT		CONSTITUENCY	

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

- Lack of mental health resources at the University of Maryland
- Current resources are often tied to rigorous criteria for applicability
- Needs of large masses not being met in timely manner due to scarcity of mental health support
- Students with certain insurances are require to pay out of pocket expenses for University Health Center services presenting a economical disadvantage to utilize support
- Individuals that identify with marginalized groups are often not able to be assisted under current system of procedures
- Lack of understanding and knowledge from University of Maryland officials about what resources and support are offered by the University of Maryland community
- Students' experiences at the University of Maryland and the assistance they are able to receive or lack thereof, are dependent on unique life conditions many have no control over
- Burdensome and demanding pathways while pursuing academic accommodations
- Title IX refusal to accommodate/assist individuals whose suspect is not affiliated with University
- Prolonged intake processes at Disability Support Services prevent and discourage students with impairments from utilizing support offered by Accessibility and Disability Support Services
- Absence of University Policy defining scope of a University professors discretion
- Absence of University Policies and Protocols regarding students dealing with difficult life conditions

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE

Addendum added to end of faculty handbooks requiring them to work with students dealing with difficult life conditions

- Addendum would help control overflow of students being pushed towards campus resources, that without a doubt are terribly flawed
- Addendum is a very simple statement that serves as a barrier of protection for students across all backgrounds and life experiences

SUGGESTION FOR HOW YOUR PROPOSAL WOULD BE PUT INTO PRACTICE

- Process could be supervised by and added to duties of Ombuds person, who primarily handles conflict resolutions on campus
- Requires no monetary expenses
- No major changes/any changes to current University of Maryland system

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A