



Student Government Association

REPORT ON COUNSELING SERVICES

- The SGA would like to thank the Counseling Center for their rapid response to various student crisis situations.
- The top concerns expressed by students visiting the counseling center are depression, anxiety, relationship stress, low self esteem and academic worries.
- There is no psychiatrist on staff. As a result, students needing medication or further care are referred out to providers who charge per visit. The counseling center also does not directly handle chronic substance abuse problems.
- There are more students visiting the counseling center thereby creating waiting lists and forcing existing appointments to be rearranged or canceled.
- Preventative measures such as empowerment workshops are extremely important and the SGA urges all faculty and staff to take these workshops seriously and to be vigilant once they are knowledgeable about the signs of distress.
- The SGA has helped alleviate some of the burden of work by approving a \$5 per semester increase in the Health Center fee which will fund two more full time counselors.
- The college should begin researching the cost of hiring a part time psychiatrist who would specifically deal with medications.
- **The SGA calls for a complete review of the Health Center and Counseling Services needs. All options should be reviewed to offer Columbia students the best, most accessible and most convenient services. Once completed, a comprehensive plan can be presented to the college administration and a future SGA Senate to determine how it will be paid for.**
- A campus center would help this issue by providing the potential for new health and counseling center spaces. It would also put those services in a central, visible location for all students to have equal access to.

***** The full report is available in the SGA office located at 1104 S. Wabash in the HUB. If you have questions or comments on any student issue contact us: 312-344-6657 or sga@colum.edu