

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

Resolution: G.R. 14 (F) 1

Sponsor(s): Ashlee Brunaugh

In Support of Suicide Prevention Week

Summary: A resolution supporting Suicide Prevention Week put on by the University of Texas at Austin Counseling and Mental Health Center.

Whereas (1): At The University of Texas at Austin, 49 percent of graduate students report having some form of suicidal thinking at some point in their lives; and¹

Whereas (2): At The University of Texas at Austin, 14 percent of graduate students say that they have seriously considered attempting suicide at some point in their lives; and¹

Whereas (3): At The University of Texas at Austin, three percent of graduate students have attempted suicide at some point in their lives; and¹

Whereas (4): 80 percent of students who complete suicide never seek help from mental health services; and²

Whereas (5): The UT Center for Counseling and Mental Health seeks to prevent suicide on campus through the annual Suicide Prevention Week, “a campus-wide event focused on raising awareness and providing education about suicide prevention” to be held from September 22 to September 26; and³

Whereas (6): Suicide Prevention Week will feature various events including a benefit kickball tournament, suicide prevention workshop, self-care lessons in yoga and a seminar on rejection and failure; and³

Whereas (7): Students typically first turn to their support systems (e.g. friends, family) before seeking help from professionals; now³

Therefore Let It Be Resolved (1): That the Graduate Student Assembly of The University of Texas at Austin believes all students should be trained to recognize the warning signs associated with suicide in their friends, peers and any member of the UT community.

¹ National Research Consortium of Counseling Centers in Higher Education, Suicide Ideation Survey. Results for The University of Texas at Austin, spring 2006.

² Drum, D. J., Brownson, C., Burton Denmark, A., & Smith, S. E. (2009). New data on the nature of suicidal crises in college students: Shifting the paradigm. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 40(3), 213.

³ <http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/bethatone/suicideprewk.html>

Be it Further Resolved (2): That the Graduate Student Assembly of The University of Texas at Austin supports the Counseling and Mental Health Center and many other campus partners for their work in continuing to promote Suicide Prevention throughout the University of Texas, and urges students to participate in all events related to Suicide Prevention Week and to take personal responsibility in preventing suicide should an opportunity ever arise.

Be it Further Resolved (3): The relevant departments across the University of Texas at Austin be notified of these appointments.