



STATEMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY AS A WHOLE IN RESPONSE TO COMMITMENTS MADE TOWARDS MENTAL HEALTH

In light of recent events on campus, Student Government would like to emphasize our support to the RIT community as well as our prioritized commitment to mental health. Following the tragedy of a student death, the student body came together in a way never seen before. Vocalizing concerns behind mental health resources, students communicated the true disparities that were not initially visible to the university as a whole. We were promptly responded to with promises for significant improvements and visible support for the mental health of our students.

Student Government is wholly committed to working with the University on multiple levels to ensure that the promised changes are delivered in an appropriate and timely manner. In response to the commitments announced by Dr. Munson on Monday, November 5th, Student Government requests the following:

1. An internal task force shall be established, including parties independent of RIT, mutually agreed upon by administration and Student Government. This task force shall be organized to assist Counseling and Psychological Services as well the RIT Administration in creating a two-year plan to meet the actions outlined. The task force shall have a public plan of action by the end of January 2019 and progress report released by May 2019.
2. In consideration of the following: *“Increase the number of counselors in CaPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) to increase our staff-to-student ratios. And, as we do so, we will strive to hire more counselors with diverse backgrounds to better assist our underrepresented populations.”*, We stress the importance of recruiting a number of mental health professionals (including counselors, psychologists, etc.) representative of ALANA, LGBTQIA+ (across the entire spectrum) and Deaf/Hard of Hearing students in a ratio reflective of the student body.
3. To consistently inform CaPS of service disparities that may not be visible through data mining, a Student Advisory Board shall be established under CaPS. This SAB shall have access to data and reports within reasonable jurisdiction to assist in their understanding of services offered on campus.

In all of this, Student Government is beyond grateful to the University for being strong champions of student success. In times of need, you have succeeded in listening and working with us.

Sincerely,

Robert Moakley, *SG President*

Corinne Mendieta, *SG Vice President*

This statement was adopted on November 9th, 2018, at Student Government Senate