

The Student Government of Plymouth State University

Thursday, September 18th, 2023, AT 7:00 PM

Hartman Union Building Rm. 119

MINUTES

❖ **CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM**

- **Attendance:** Devonte Gilmore, Nicole Reynolds, Erin Johnston, William Loughlin, Christyan Cimino, Liam Leavitt, Jonah Rosenberg, Daniella Duque, Hannah Lowell, Emily Coutermarsh, William Hicking, David Woltag, Kaila Menard, Aidan Cook, Nathan Sperry, Rosella Rentas-Ubeda, Quinn Hagerty, Connor Charette, Rabekah Mbarani
 - **Guests:** Jason Charette, Nathaniel Bowditch, Robert Orf, Members of The Clock, Skylar Hammes
 - **Absent:** Meenah Ratib

❖ **REPORTS 7:09 PM**

- Treasurer:
 - SAC will be attending the meeting at 7:30.
- President:
 - SGA meet and greet will be next week at 6:00 PM
 - There will be stickers given to each class to give out.
 - ◆ Students must follow the class council Instagram's to receive a sticker.
 - Each class council will have received feedback on one thing they love about PSU and one thing they would like to change.
 - Business casual dress code.
 - Attendance is required unless previously organized.
- Vice-President:
 - Working with prospective clubs and organizations to get set up for a general board meeting.
 - Coordinating a time to meet with Donald Birx and arranging an open line of communication.
- USSB Trustee:
 - Met with the governor and received news about collaborating with community colleges in the next five years.
 - Confirmed that faculty pay is secure for the near future.
 - Working on getting Jonah Rosenberg integrated.
 - John Scheinman and the board of trustees will be present at the USSB meeting this Wednesday, September 20.
- Speaker:
 - Scheduled cabinet meeting with the administration for Mondays.

- Looking for comments from the general board for constituent concerns to bring to the meetings.
- Taking a look at amending our committees and revising by-law wait periods.
- Informed general board of committees being formed within the coming weeks.
- Business casual dress code is always mandatory.
 - The business casual closet in Hyde is available for Plymouth students.
 - The Student Government has a budget to retrieve business casual clothes for needing members.
- Each class has a budget to use for events
 - Freshman class gets \$2,000, Sophomore class gets \$4,000, Junior class gets \$6,000, and senior class gets \$50,000.
 - ◆ Think about organizing events in class meetings.
- The Board of Trustees visit this Wednesday is very important and attendance from the general board is strongly encouraged.
 - Wednesday, September 20 from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM.
- Provost Nathaniel Bowditch
 - On October 30th, the full board will be organizing a meeting.
- Advisor Jess Dutille
 - Impressed with the retreat last Monday.
 - Board of Trustee meeting on our campus on the 19th and 20th of October.
 - According to President Donald Birx, the presence of student government and clubs and organizations are highly encouraged to attend.
 - Clarified that Devonte Gilmore attends faculty meetings in order to bring information to the general board.

❖ **GUEST SPEAKER: 7:25 PM**

- a. Provost Nate Bowditch and Counseling Center Director Rob Orf
 - Robert Orf & Nathaniel Bowditch
 - Introduced himself as the Director of the Counseling Center on campus.
 - Attending meeting for three reasons:
 - ◆ 1. To update and inform students
 - ◆ 2. Maintain trust the counseling center has developed with the student body.
 - ◆ 3. To invite and welcome feedback and questions.
 - Opening statement:
 - ◆ Attached.
 - Feedback and questions:
 - ◆ Question regarding data in report.

- Citations were retrieved from several diverse reports.
- ◆ What are some of the main goals of the Diversity Center.
 - Destigmatize seeking help. If everything is located in the same building, it makes it easier for students to look for help.
 - There is much less stigma about seeking mental help for Generation Z.
 - Political unrest related to law enforcement.
- ◆ Have we had past issues with students trying to integrate connections between students with past trauma from law enforcement?
 - The counseling center has worked to help students face past trauma with police.
 - Trek the dog on campus is a big step in moving toward helping students integrate.
- ◆ With the colocation, is there anything slated to move into the current UPD building?
 - Long term we recognize that the distribution of things around campus is not ideal. Figuring out what we need on campus first is what we need to figure out, so this will be an ongoing discussion.
- ◆ Money given from student tuition toward mental health support on campus is separate from money that is being put into creating a wellness center.
- ◆ Devonte Gilmore would like to write a resolution following the meeting to call toward the administration about bad communications regarding moving the counseling center.
- ◆ Nathaniel Bowditch says that putting a fitness room in the wellness center was never a viable option.
 - Trying a satellite office in Highland Hall DOES seem like a possible option still.
 - The administration is still looking for ways to provide counseling center with the space they need.
- ◆ Point of clarification from Robert Orf:
 - All emotions are valuable, and the frustrations of the student government are important because it shows that the group cares.
 - Our mutual goal is to find things to be in the best interests of the students.

❖ **NEW BUSINESS: 8:00 PM**

- a. Internal Election for Class of 2027 Treasurer
 - Opening the floor for nominations:

- Motion by Emily Coutermarsh to nominate Skylar Hammes for the position of class of 2027 treasurer position.
 - Seconded by Devonte Gilmore.
 - ◆ Brief statement from Skylar regarding why she would like to join the student government.
 - Accounting major, experience with money and business.
 - They are willing to learn more about our community.
 - Motion to vote Skylar Hammes into the treasurer of the class of 2027.
 - Motioned by Emily Coutermarsh.
 - Seconded by Devonte Gilmore.
 - ◆ A unanimous decision was reached; the vote was accepted.
 - Motion to move the CEA request of SAC next in the agenda.
 - Motioned by Devonte Gilmore.
 - Seconded by Nicole Reynolds.
 - ◆ A unanimous decision was reached; the agenda was rearranged.
- b. CEA for Student Art Collective (To Be Confirmed)
- Student Art collective is requesting \$2,400 to hire 6 bands in a CEA request for the Autumn Music & Arts Festival on October 7th.
 - President Emily Roy says they love supported local artists and bands and have done it in the past.
 - ◆ They have only booked four bands with two slots open.
 - ◆ Each band will be compensated \$400 for their time.
 - If only 6 bands attend, they will carry the money to Earth Jam in the spring.
 - ◆ Expecting 600 people to attend the event.
 - The event is open to the Plymouth community at large.
 - Motion to award the Student Art Collective \$1,600 in order to pay for the four bands they currently have hired.
 - Motioned by Christyan Cimino.
 - Seconded by William Hicking.
 - ◆ 16 in favor, 1 abstained.
 - ◆ Motion passed; the Student Art Collective was awarded \$1,600.
- c. A.AY2324.1 - Amending Committees and Bylaw Amendments Wait Period
- Amendment attached.
 - Motion to amend the Committees and Bylaw Amendment Wait Period
 - Motioned by Devonte Gilmore
 - Seconded by Emily Coutermarsh
 - ◆ Unanimous decision.

➤ Motion passed; the Bylaw was amended.

❖ **CONSTITUENT CONCERNS: 8:35**

- Issue with vandalism in the first-year residential facilities.
 - This will be discussed in campus affairs.
 - Point of information: They just finished the campus-wide camera project; more eyes on campus. It **WILL** be easier to catch people this year.
 - If it continues to be on the rise, say something.
 - Nicole Reynolds is dedicated to positive social norming.
 - If vandalism is hate-crime adjacent or discriminatory, the IDEA center has bias incident reporting in place.
- Concerns investing time and funds into the blue-light phone system.
 - The school did formerly had plans to add more phones to focus on the idea that you can see one phone from another.
 - The blue phones are tested each semester.
 - The campus safety committee focused on this frequently in past years, and Tracy Claybaugh is invested into installing new blue-light phone systems.
 - The conversation is still active with Tracy Claybaugh. Jonah Rosenberg will be reaching out to discuss further.
- Concerns about composting on campus.
 - Last year, we had a club that tabled with a bucket for composting.
 - Food waste is a big problem, and Plymouth should not be a part of that problem.
 - Quinn Hagerty is interested in diving deeper into the subject.

❖ **MEETING AJOURNED: 8:52 PM**



Plymouth State University Student Government Association

Amendment 1 Academic Year 2023-2024

Speaker William Loughlin, on behalf of themselves, and Christyan Cimino, David Woltag, Devonte Gilmore, Emily Coutermarsh, Erin Johnston, Jonah Rosenberg, Liam Leavitt, Nicole Reynolds, introduced and published the following legislation to the Plymouth State University Student Assembly for consideration and discussion.

An Amendment

A.AY2324.1 – Amending Committees and Bylaw Amendments Wait Period

Whereas, the current committee structure of the SGA is not conducive to activity in each committee,

Whereas, the effective use of committees will allow for the SGA to address specific issues and initiatives more effectively throughout the year,

Whereas, several new committees are needed to address broad topic areas of issues, while several committees need to be reformed to address inactivity and the changing needs of the SGA,

Whereas, SGA committees can help to better serve the needs of the Student Body, the SGA, and other stakeholders at a smaller and more focused level,

Whereas, the SGA can begin to adjust the bylaws to better promote committee activity and SGA initiatives if the appropriate adjustments are made to Articles VIII and Article X of the SGA Constitution,

Whereas, amendments to the SGA bylaws require a fourteen day waiting period before discussion, delaying potential changes needlessly, and delaying the implementation of changes to the SGA Constitution,

Whereas, a 75% vote threshold to approve bylaw changes is sufficient to ensure that a significant majority of the SGA supports changes to the SGA bylaws, and a shortened waiting

period can allow issues and changes to be addressed by the next meeting of the Student Assembly

Therefore, it is resolved by the Plymouth State University Student Government Association:

To Enact, the following changes to the PSU SGA Constitution under Article VIII and Article X, as outlined in Document 1 [1].

[1] - Document 1, titled SGA_Amendment-AY2324-1_SGA_Constitution contains the edited clauses and was sent as a reply to the 9/18/2023 SGA Agenda.

For the Secretary:

Resolved XX/XX/XXXX

Sign: _____





Decision Regarding Question of Co-Locating Counseling Services with Law Enforcement at Wellness Center:
Summary for Student Government Meeting on September 18th, 2023 at 7pm
Dr. Robert W. Orf, Licensed Psychologist, Director of PSU Counseling Center

Introduction of Opening Verbal Remarks

Thank you all for having me here tonight. My name is Dr. Rob Orf, my pronouns are he/him/his, I'm a licensed psychologist in NH, and I'm the Director of the PSU Counseling Center. I so appreciate the opportunity to discuss this important topic with you and get your feedback as student leaders. I know how hard you all have advocated for student mental health and wellbeing on campus. You have done important work and have a lot to be proud of. I hope that you know that we are proud of you. It is a pleasure to be with you again today.

I wanted to connect with you tonight for three reasons. First, I appreciate all the work you all have done on Student Government to advocate for a Wellness Center, and I wanted you all to be updated and informed. Second, I want to maintain the trust the Counseling Center has developed with the student body. Ultimately, this decision impacts the future of your mental health care and that of your fellow students, and it is important that you be involved. And third, I wanted to invite and welcome your feedback and questions. This opening statement will take about 10 minutes to read, and I'll provide these remarks as well as additional information for your meeting minutes.

Brief Summary of History

In late spring 2023, I learned that it was planned for University Police to co-locate at the Highland Hall Wellness Center. PSU's University Police Department was planned to move into the ground level/first floor of the Highland Hall Wellness Center building, with the Counseling Center and Health Services dividing the top/second floor, and Enterprise Technology & Services (IT) having the garden level/basement. In this plan, the Counseling Center's entrance would be separate from the entrance that Health Services and University Police would share, yet the parking lot would be the same for all offices. The Counseling Center's entrance would be that of the shared parking lot, with the necessary police vehicles.

After I provided written assessment of risk and concerns of the co-location, PSU Cabinet supported me in asking that I make the decision regarding whether or not the Counseling Center would move to the Wellness Center at Highland Hall, given that University Police would be relocating there. At this point, with PSU Cabinet knowledge and understanding, I began seeking consultation from the Counseling Center licensed clinicians and staff, PSU faculty/staff stakeholders and partners, licensed mental health providers and experts in the field, and also sought PSU Student Government representation feedback.

Through consideration of this decision, I adhered to the American Psychological Association (APA) Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, the code of ethics that guides the practice of all Licensed Psychologists and all USNH counseling center Directors. The following APA ethical principles and ethical standards were particularly applicable to this decision: Principle A: Beneficence and Nonmaleficence; Principle B: Fidelity and Responsibility; Principle E: Respect for People's Rights and Dignity; and Standard 1.03 Conflicts Between Ethics and Organizational Demands. Also critical in making this decision was



referring to the Counseling Center's Mission Statement and Diversity Statement, which guide programmatic decision-making, as we have always strived to do what is in the best interest of the students we serve.

I also greatly benefited from consulting with licensed mental health professional colleagues and other experts in the field. I consulted with the licensed clinicians at the Counseling Center, who carry many decades of experience and have a range of expertise across the various mental health disciplines. These clinicians are guided by and adhere to the ethical codes and standards of their mental health disciplines. I also consulted with licensed clinicians and providers who have served in a leadership position at the USNH counseling centers (i.e. Director, Assistant/Associate Director). I also consulted with additional licensed mental health providers, some of whom have at one time served on the NH Board of Mental Health Practice, which oversees licensure for multiple mental health disciplines in the state. I also consulted with a New Hampshire Psychological Association, (NHPA) Ethics Consultant about the issue.

I also welcomed consultation from faculty and staff who approached me to express concern about the co-location. I also sought consultation from PSU faculty/staff, particularly from offices/departments with whom we collaborate with as part of PSU Counseling Center operations and with whom are resource referrals to our student clients.

Also, importantly, I sought consultation from Student Government representation. Again, I am grateful for the opportunity to share this with you today and to get your feedback.

Identified Risks of Co-Location

The potential risks of co-locating law enforcement with counseling include creating barriers to accessing mental health services.

We at PSU are fortunate to have compassionate law enforcement officers in the University Police Department (UPD), with whom the PSU Counseling Center has a positive professional relationship. UPD does important work at the university, and they need and deserve a better space to perform their important operations. While UPD officers are kind and caring people, the challenge is that students come to PSU with 17+ years of experiences, perceptions, and trauma, which could prevent them from presenting for mental health treatment if law enforcement and counseling services were co-located.

The possible unintentional discouraging effect of law enforcement co-locating with mental health services could impact students of various backgrounds, yet may particularly affect:

- Students with certain presenting mental health concerns, such as:
 - Students seeking counseling who have experienced trauma related to law enforcement
 - Students seeking counseling for substance use challenges/concerns
 - Students seeking counseling for reported sexual assault
 - Students seeking counseling for reported accusations or charges of sexual assault or other crimes
 - Students seeking counseling for anger management issues
 - Students experiencing a psychotic episode who may have paranoia related to law enforcement
- Students of diverse backgrounds, including:
 - Students of diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds, who research indicates may be more likely to have distrust of law enforcement.



- Students in the LGBTQIA+ community, who research indicates may be more likely to have distrust of law enforcement.
- Students with disabilities, who research indicates may be more likely to have distrust of law enforcement.
- Students with spiritual beliefs, who may be uncomfortable doing sacred work of therapy/counseling, above a law enforcement office with firearms.
- Other Stigma
 - Students who might fear that people with mental health challenges are all inherently dangerous. Co-locating law enforcement and counseling may reinforce that stigma, thus discouraging students to seek mental health services if they fear the building is not safe, hence law enforcement's presence in the building with counseling.

While those populations of students may be at increased risk of co-location of law enforcement and counseling, there is also potential safety risk to the PSU community with the proposed co-location.

- Students experiencing suicidal ideation and/or homicidal ideation may be less likely to seek help/counseling at the PSUCC, if it is in the same building as law enforcement .

Beyond the risks to access of mental health care and the community safety risks, there may also be detrimental impacts on recruitment, retention and persistence in co-locating counseling with law enforcement.

Decision

Through review of the decision, the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, the Counseling Center Mission Statement, the Counseling Center Diversity Statement, consultation with Counseling Center licensed clinicians and program support assistant staff, PSU faculty members, PSU staff members, consultation with external licensed mental health professionals and the NH Psychological Association Ethics Committee, it became readily apparent that there was only one choice to make.

Through consultations with licensed mental health providers and previous or active counseling center directors/assistant directors, a prominent theme was that the co-location of counseling with law enforcement was an “unacceptable ethical risk”, “potentially harmful for clients”, “potentially dangerous for the community”, and “opened up liability.”

While I and Counseling Center staff would have wanted to re-locate to the planned Wellness Center at Highland Hall, ethically to avoid harm and in the best interest of the student clients we serve, we have decided to stay in our current space. Other options have been explored, including the suggestion of having a small satellite operation at the Highland Hall Wellness Center co-located with law enforcement, in addition to the current space. After carefully considering that suggestion, the same ethical principles and risks apply to a small satellite office co-located with law enforcement.

Currently, the Counseling Center is planned to stay at the current location, with Health Services and University Police proceeding to the Wellness Center at Highland Hall.

Thank you all for your attention. I would now like to welcome your input, feedback, questions, and comments.



Additional Information for the Student Government Minutes

American Psychological Association (APA) Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct that were particularly applicable to this decision:

- Principle A: Beneficence and Nonmaleficence
 - “Psychologists strive to benefit those with whom they work and take care to do no harm. In their professional actions, psychologists seek to safeguard the welfare and rights of those with whom they interact professionally and other affected persons, and the welfare of animal subjects of research. When conflicts occur among psychologists' obligations or concerns, they attempt to resolve these conflicts in a responsible fashion that avoids or minimizes harm. Because psychologists' scientific and professional judgments and actions may affect the lives of others, they are alert to and guard against personal, financial, social, organizational, or political factors that might lead to misuse of their influence. Psychologists strive to be aware of the possible effect of their own physical and mental health on their ability to help those with whom they work.”
- Principle B: Fidelity and Responsibility
 - “Psychologists establish relationships of trust with those with whom they work. They are aware of their professional and scientific responsibilities to society and to the specific communities in which they work. Psychologists uphold professional standards of conduct, clarify their professional roles and obligations, accept appropriate responsibility for their behavior, and seek to manage conflicts of interest that could lead to exploitation or harm. Psychologists consult with, refer to, or cooperate with other professionals and institutions to the extent needed to serve the best interests of those with whom they work. They are concerned about the ethical compliance of their colleagues' scientific and professional conduct. Psychologists strive to contribute a portion of their professional time for little or no compensation or personal advantage.”
- Principle E: Respect for People's Rights and Dignity
 - “Psychologists respect the dignity and worth of all people, and the rights of individuals to privacy, confidentiality, and self-determination. Psychologists are aware that special safeguards may be necessary to protect the rights and welfare of persons or communities whose vulnerabilities impair autonomous decision making. Psychologists are aware of and respect cultural, individual, and role differences, including those based on age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, and socioeconomic status, and consider these factors when working with members of such groups. Psychologists try to eliminate the effect on their work of biases based on those factors, and they do not knowingly participate in or condone activities of others based upon such prejudices.”
- Standard 1.03 Conflicts Between Ethics and Organizational Demands
 - “If the demands of an organization with which psychologists are affiliated or for whom they are working are in conflict with this Ethics Code, psychologists clarify the nature of the conflict, make known their commitment to the Ethics Code, and take reasonable steps to resolve the



conflict consistent with the General Principles and Ethical Standards of the Ethics Code. Under no circumstances may this standard be used to justify or defend violating human rights.”

PSU Counseling Center Mission Statement

- “The Plymouth State University Counseling Center is dedicated to enhancing the psychosocial development of each Plymouth State University student, as well as contributing toward the health and vitality of the institution. This is accomplished through the provision of individual and group counseling, prevention services, and systemic changes that encourage and sustain an institutional climate that promotes interpersonal and intrapersonal well-being.”

PSU Counseling Center Diversity Statement

- Everyone is Welcome Here
- The Plymouth State University Counseling Center endorses the broadest possible view of diversity while supporting all students as they strive to achieve their educational goals regardless of age, race, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, socioeconomic status, ability, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, and/or linguistic orientation. As a staff, we strive to be open, informed, aware, accepting, inclusive, mindful and respectful in all our decisions and actions.
- We recognize that bias, prejudice and discrimination may manifest themselves in individual and/or systemic ways, and often result in creating feelings of isolation, disconnection, grief, uncertainty, anxiety, anger and fear. These acts of “bias, prejudice and discrimination,” whether perpetrated unconsciously or not, diminish the quality of the educational experience for all.
- Our Center is committed to the values of anti-racism, inclusion, and multicultural diversity. Our staff is committed to providing culturally informed treatment and support to all students; identifying and addressing individual and/or systemic acts of discrimination and bigotry; and promote the wellbeing of all PSU students.
- For more information on diversity, please go to the website of PSU’s [IDEA Center](#).



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