

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
Academic and Student Affairs Committee  
January 25, 2017**

**SUBJECT:** The Impact of Counseling Services on the Academic Success of Students

**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION**

For information

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In March 2015, Board staff presented an information brief on campus safety and security to the Board's Academic and Student Affairs Committee in response to increasing concerns about the safety and well-being of students. The Board subsequently requested funds during the 2016 legislative session to expand counseling services and campus security across the State University System. However, that request was not funded and counseling centers are still struggling to keep up with demand.

In September 2016, Board staff provided an overview of the increasing need for well-trained, professional counseling services to address the mental and behavioral health of university students. Also in September 2016, the Counsel for Student Affairs presented the State University System Mental Health Counseling Services Legislative Budget Request to increase campus counseling services in order to address the critical need for expanding student mental and behavioral health coverage the System.

In November 2016, Dr. Maribeth Ehasz from the University of Central Florida described the importance of addressing the increased student demand for mental health services.

At this meeting, Board staff will provide data that show the significant positive impact counseling services have on the academic success of students.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** January 2017 Information Brief

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Dr. Christy England