

Bill # 67-36

**The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)
The Pennsylvania State University**



of the 67th Assembly
March 28th, 2018

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Penn State Red Folder Initiative
Funding for design, printing, and distribution of PSU Red Folders
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

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According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the majority of students suffering from mental health conditions have experienced some sort of crisis while attending university. Unfortunately, 34% of those students report that the college was unaware of their distress. In order to better serve these students, it is critical to disseminate information so that faculty, staff and graduate assistants can quickly recognize indicators of mental distress and direct students toward appropriate resources.

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The Red Folder Initiative has been a successful program put in place at many other universities to help achieve this end. The folders are intended to be brief summaries, to which most employees that regularly interact with students have immediate access in their offices. Often they also include flowcharts that simplify the process for recognizing the severity of a crisis. Finally, they include the campus and community resources from which students can receive help. Attached in Appendix A is a sample from UCLA. The University of California system has piloted this program and seen success in its implementation. Students in distress sometimes do not reach out to find help, and require intervention. This program encourages faculty and staff not to be bystanders.

1 The University Park Undergraduate Association has been advancing this project throughout their
2 12th Assembly in conjunction with Counseling and Psychological Services. Much of the design
3 and content selection for the PSU Red Folders is already underway. There are two major costs
4 associated with bringing the Red Folder Initiative to Penn State. The first of which is printing
5 the folders for each office on campus. Design, printing, and distribution of 10,000 folders is
6 estimated to cost approximately \$8300. Furthermore, a web version of the Red Folder is also
7 being developed. Design and maintenance of that website will be a further expense.

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9 UPUA and CAPS anticipate that the project will be implemented over Summer 2018 and in
10 place for the Fall 2018 semester.

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12 **Recommended Course of Action:**

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14 The Graduate and Professional Student Association recognizes the importance of bringing such
15 an initiative to Penn State and partners with the University Park Undergraduate Association in
16 helping to manifest PSU Red Folders.

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18 GPSA authorizes the expenditure of no more than **\$3000** toward the costs of designing and
19 printing the Red Folders as well as those associated with the development of the Red Folder web
20 resource.

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Respectfully submitted,

Brian Conway
Delegate, Eberly College of Science
Speaker of the Assembly

President _____ Affirm Veto

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The Graduate and Professional Student Association