Title: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FIVE YEAR GOAL FOR MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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Resolution Number: 6.07-08

WHEREAS, Student mental health is a critical issue for both student wellness and campus-wide safety; and

WHEREAS, Students at the University of Washington lack accessible and affordable mental health treatment options; and

WHEREAS, The current student to mental health professional ratio at the University of Washington is 1:2,273; and

WHEREAS, The International Associate for Counseling Services recommends a university mental health staff to student ratio of 1:1,000-1,500 students; and

WHEREAS, A 2006 National Survey of Counseling Center Directors reported an average university mental health staff to student ratio of 1:1,698; and

WHEREAS, To achieve parity with the national average, the University of Washington would need to add minimum of four to seven additional counselors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, The University of Washington should make as both a budget and planning priority the goal that within the next five years, the University of Washington will achieve parity in its student to mental health provider ratio.

THAT, The University of Washington should improve efforts to inform students of their mental health treatment options, and remove barriers to student access of those options.

THAT, The University of Washington should ensure that mental health services are both accessible and affordable to University of Washington students.

Presented to GPSS for approval on March 3, 2008
Approved on March 5, 2008