SUBCOMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
January 13, 2022
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Time Convened: 10:00 a.m.
Time Adjourned: 10:58 a.m.

Committee and Board members present:
Cooper L. Brown (Chair), David G. Brandon, Richard P. Cole, Rahul Patel, and Anita G. Zucker

Others present:
Chris Cowen, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Amy Hass, Vice President and General Counsel, D'Andra Mull, Vice President for Student Life, Nancy Paton, Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing, and other members of the public.

1.0   Call to Order and Welcome
Chair Cooper L. Brown welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0   Roll Call
Assistant University Secretary Melissa Orth called the roll of the committee and board members present. No quorum was necessary since no actions will be taken.

3.0   Discussion Items

3.1   Purpose, Goals, and Timeline
Chair Cooper L. Brown indicated that todays' meeting would be to brainstorm and to see what the goals of the committee are. He presented his subcommittee goals which consisted of a comprehensive review of what UF offers as well as an action plan to bring to the board in April. The February meeting will focus on the plan of action and March will finalize the proposal for the board, the includes how to implement the recommendation and financial needs associated with it.

Chief Financial Officer Chris Cowen commented that the Board of Trustees have determined not to increase any fees including the Student Health Fee. This subcommittee needs to come up with a sustainable funding model and this would be our chance to be a leader in this space.

3.2   Current UF Resources

Vice President D'Andra Mull went through the resources that are available to students. She provided documents in advance for the subcommittee to review. Trustee Cole asked what kind of issue a student would have that it would take them 2-3 weeks to get an appointment. VP Mull indicated that students who are new to UF and may need help adjusting but are not in crisis, want to know they have support to navigate the university, stress, time, etc. Trustee Cole asked whether there is a log of the interactions so that a professional can look at the log of the student concerns and determine whether the student should be seen sooner rather than later. VP Mull confirmed there is a log and tracking. She added that they are working on a university-wide survey of all students so there can be a benchmark. She stated the national average of wait times is 3-4 months. VP Mull indicated the information was not confidential and she would send this report to the subcommittee.

Chair Brown asked if VP Mull could provide the subcommittee with information on the number of students who were on the waitlist prior to the CART program going into effect.

Trustee Cole inquired whether other universities have already made changes in this area and whether we could incorporate what they have learned. VP Mull indicated that every five years there is an outside review of all her departments however, they regularly benchmark other universities, they are in a network of like universities, and all share their information. Trustee Cole asked whether the results the outside review could be shared with the committee indicating what recommendations were acted upon and what they did not act on and why.

3.3   External Services and Resources to Consider

Chair Brown indicated external services can often supplement or enhance existing services. He mentioned that an app would be beneficial as that's how most students navigate today's world. He asked whether UF had the ability to develop an app. VP Mull indicated that UF was able to develop the GatorSafe App and that it was something they could look into.

Chair Brown noted we do offer telehealth services. He asked VP Mull if she thought using an external resource or internal resource would be most beneficial.

VP Mull stated she would rather see the services stay within UF so there is control and to ensure it is specific to UF and our student experience. Chair Brown would like to see an app point the students to various areas of support available. He indicated that the Chief Information Officer, Elias Eldayrie should be brought into the next meeting to discuss the possibilities of a centralized app. Chair Cole indicated that if we were able to develop this into an app that we could take it to the Board of Governors, and it could become a model for the SUS.

4.0   New Business

There was no new business to come before the committee.

5.0   Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Chair Cooper L. Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.