

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Label:** EO-60004

**Date Announced:** July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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**The Mental Health & Sexual Assault Awareness Task Force**

By the authority vested in me as the President by the Constitution and the Bylaws of the University of Houston Student Government Association, and consistent with Title III, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 1 of the Bylaws, I hereby order the following:

**Section 1. Purpose.**

There have been two suicides off of the Agnes Arnold Hall building in the Spring of 2023 alone.

Mental Health in the United States is stigmatized and treated as a secondary need.

Counseling and Psychological Services and other services that fall under the category of the University of Houston's Health and Wellness portfolio are under-utilized and underfunded in various regards, and are in need of additional promotion and marketing to the general and incoming student body.

Sexual Assault is treated as a taboo subject that is not discussed openly enough, which leads to a lack of dialogue and effective and actionable response to recognize the problem and address it summarily.

## **Section 2. Action.**

- (A) The Student Government Association will form a task-force to address a lack of funding to and awareness of mental health resources, and upstreaming funding towards programs that indirectly benefit the mental health of campus residents aggregately.
- (B) That this task force is created upon this executive order's announcement to the public.
- (C) The Vice-President of the Student Government will begin soliciting applications for this task-force upon the public announcement of the task-force.
- (D) This task-force will meet at least bi-weekly, starting in the month of its creation.
- (E) The duties of the Mental Health & Sexual Assault Awareness Task Force include, but is not limited to:
1. Researching strategies and methods to raise awareness to JED Initiative programs and other mental health services;
  2. Working in collaboration with the University and Student Government Administrations to address shortcomings in programming and funding;
  3. Raise awareness of mental health and sexual assault; and
  4. Negotiate with administrators on the implementation of new services and policies to address sexual assault on campus.
- (F) All students will be allowed to apply to this task-force.
- (G) The Vice-President and the Speaker of the Senate of the Student Government Association will serve as the co-chairs of this task-force.

*Benjamin Rizk*

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Benjamin Rizk

Student Government President

