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Student Affairs Fee  
Advisory Board  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

**Funding Request Form FY2023**

*Department should complete one form for each individual request*

**Department:**

Offices of the Dean of Student Life

**Program, Service or Operation Requested:**

Student Assistance Services – Student Development Specialist II

**General Description:**

Student Assistance Services – Student Development Specialist II

**Request Type:**

Full
  Increase
  One-Time
  Partial/Matching

**Type of Funds Requested:**

UAF
  Other

**General Questions**

***How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?***

While the primary goal of Student Assistance Services (SAS) is to support students through times of crisis and concern, SAS strives to advance a variety of student initiatives: pregnant and parenting students, former foster and adopted Aggies, and students who are homeless and hungry. SAS was awarded a two year grant (FY17 and FY18) to fund a graduate assistant (GA) to work specifically with initiatives that supports the former foster and adopted Aggie. The department funded the position through reserve funds in FY 19 and received permanent funding for this position in FY20. During those four years, the case management load of the staff have continued to rise, and the complexity of situations that students present support the need for an additional full time professional case manager.

***What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?***

- Department Strategic Priority #2: Support students through quality programs and services
- Division Strategic Goal #1: Enrich the learning experience of students by cultivating an environment of intellectual curiosity – By providing 1:1 support and maximizing the SAS network, case managers are able to provide guidance so students are supported as they navigate Texas A&M University.

•Division Strategic Goal #2: Contribute to student success, including retention/persistence and timely graduation – Many students who interface with SAS are lacking in skill development. Case managers help promote student success by spending time working through life aspects they were potentially never taught or nurtured.

•Division Strategic Goal #3: Create an inclusive environment that develops leaders who productively engage in a wide spectrum of ideas, perspectives, and cultures – By having intentional conversations and developing a community of successful students, case managers are able to have a hand in preparing the students for life beyond college. As an office, SAS strives to promote reflection and understanding, self-awareness, and service beyond self. By building relationships with students we are not only developing global leaders, but providing a connection to an A&M staff member who will help students persist through their collegiate tenure.

•Division Strategic Goal #4: Provide innovative programs and resources that promote the health, wellbeing, and safety of students – By being intentional with relationship building, SAS is able to advance the knowledge and understanding of resources that promote overall wellbeing.

•Division Strategic Goal #5: Strategically leverage resources and develop new strategies to ensure our future effectiveness and sustainability – By adding an additional full time case manager, staff can allocate ample time to understanding the needs of students, developing assessment, and advancing the current research within the field of case management.

Should this position not be funded, the office would continue to hire a graduate assistant, and caseload ratios would remain the same or increase and students may not receive the quality of support necessary for their respective circumstances.

***Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.***

	Fall '17	Fall '18	Fall '19	Fall '20
Individual cases	418	590	641	552
Mental Health	97	150	190	135
Academic Issues	100	163	204	269
Consultation	39	49	123	84

As of August 31, 2021 there were already 30 individual in the first two days of the fall semester. Should this pace continue throughout the year cases could be close 1,000 for Fall '21.

***What actions have you implemented or discontinued internally to address the identified need?***

The nature of the work of Student Assistance Services does not allow for caseloads to be reduced or discontinued as staff respond to the needs of students as they arise.

***If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?***

Success would be determined by a redistribution in staff caseload and number of hours spent among staff managing cases. In 2017, the Higher Education Case Managers Association calculated the student to case manager ratio as 7,115:1. When looking at Texas A&M student population to full time staff ratio, we are at approximately 23,000:1.

***Have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.***

Staff positions are typically not funded through sponsorship or fundraising or any soft funds.

**Total Estimated Cost**

<b>Funding Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
SDS II Salary	\$39,000
Benefits	\$14,250
Total	\$53,250
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	\$16,000
<b>TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$37,350</b>