

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Session 123

Date: February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024



**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**

*Submitted by Andal Sridhar  
Senate Vice Speaker*

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**BOARD BILL 5.05: Resolution for the Establishment of a Collegiate-Based EMS Program  
at University of Washington**

***Sponsors: Tristan Jafari, Tanmay Bhanushali***

***Senate Vote: 51-0-9***

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and well-being of students, staff, faculty, and community members at the University of Washington is a priority and of paramount importance;

WHEREAS, emergency medical services (EMS) agencies play a critical role in providing immediate medical attention during acute mental, behavioral, and physical health emergencies;

WHEREAS, the University of Washington is home to a dense population of young adults, creating a need for tailored and effective health services;

WHEREAS, collegiate-based EMS (CBEMS) agencies are state-licensed EMS agencies that are adapted to and solely operate on a college campus and are staffed by students who are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs);

WHEREAS, EMTs are state-certified medical professionals who are trained and licensed to provide effective prehospital medical care at the basic life support level [1];

WHEREAS, CBEMS agencies have been successfully established on over 250 different college campuses [2], including large state universities similar to the University of Washington [3,4];

WHEREAS, 41% of college students experience moderate or major depression, 36% experience anxiety disorders, 14% experience suicidal ideation, and 29% engage in non-suicidal self-injury [5];

WHEREAS, 27.4% of college students report engagement in binge drinking [6], and 7% report misuse of prescription opioids [7];

WHEREAS, the high prevalence of behavioral and substance use emergencies poses a threat to the health of students and impedes the mission [8] of the University of Washington;

WHEREAS, barriers to the reporting of the aforementioned sensitive medical emergencies exist, especially if patients or bystanders are apprehensive of potential repercussions or unintended consequences to their actions [9,10];

WHEREAS, student-providers have a shared identity with student-patients, making them more likely to identify with shared stressors;

WHEREAS, a shared patient-provider identity and life-stage leads to improved healthcare delivery, medical trust, care perception, and outcomes [11,12,13];

WHEREAS, students are more than twice as likely to call for medical attention when they know that first responders are peers, particularly in cases of sensitive emergencies, such as drug abuse, alcohol intoxication, and mental health crises, cultivating a community that prioritizes safety over stigma [14];

WHEREAS, CBEMS providers receive further specialized training in mental health first aid, which enhances the ability of responders to assess and treat mental health emergencies;

WHEREAS, faster response times are linked to better healthcare outcomes [15,16], particularly in cases of life-threatening emergencies, such as sudden cardiac arrest [17];

WHEREAS, CBEMS agencies have an average response time of 2.6 minutes [18], allowing for the initiation of medical care delivery 3.78 minutes prior to the arrival of the Seattle Fire Department [19];

WHEREAS, mass gatherings occur frequently at the University of Washington, including but not limited to sporting contests, conferences, Greek life, events, concerts, political demonstrations, religious celebrations, move-in or out, and Dawg Daze;

WHEREAS, mass gatherings exhibit increased health risk profiles due to weather hazards, infectious disease, physical altercations, substance use, more difficult access to medical facilities, and crowd disturbances [20,21];

WHEREAS, stationing standby EMS personnel at mass gatherings is a proactive provision of healthcare to address increased risks by allowing for rapid onsite stabilization, treatment, and intervention [22];

WHEREAS, medical standby services prevent resource strains to local fire departments, EMS agencies, and emergency departments [22];

WHEREAS, CBEMS agencies provide medical standby services at mass gatherings that occur on their respective college campuses [23];

WHEREAS, a CBEMS agency offers invaluable leadership and professional development for students, which are key alongside academic growth to prepare students to make lasting impacts beyond the University of Washington;

WHEREAS, hands-on and experiential learning in medicine is highly sought by current and prospective students who are considering careers in healthcare;

WHEREAS, fostering diversity within a CBEMS agency creates opportunities for underrepresented students who would otherwise not have considered careers as EMTs, firefighters, paramedics, and physicians;

WHEREAS, Washington State Legislature recommends training students in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) in order to foster future generations of capable responders [24];

WHEREAS, University of Washington Environmental Health & Safety recommends community members to pursue CPR/AED training through the American Red Cross [25];

WHEREAS, the Graduate and Professional Student Senate of the University of Washington has previously resolved that trainings for CPR, AED, and naloxone use should be made available to the University community at low or no cost [26];

WHEREAS, CBEMS agencies partner with organizations like the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, and college campus entities to provide CPR, AED, and naloxone use certifications at no cost to university-affiliated persons [27];

WHEREAS, such initiatives equip individuals with life-saving skills, foster a more resilient community, and promote a culture of emergency preparedness at the University of Washington;

WHEREAS, King County has adopted PulsePoint, a location-based mobile app, fully integrated within the 9-1-1 system, that alerts trained community members to cases of sudden cardiac arrest in their vicinity [28];

**THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

THAT, on behalf of the student body, the ASUW recognizes the need for and benefit of a collegiate-based EMS agency at the University of Washington;

THAT, a collegiate-based EMS agency shall be established at the University of Washington that co-responds with the Seattle Fire Department to provide non-transport basic life support services;

THAT, the collegiate-based EMS agency at the University of Washington shall lead community trainings and issue certifications in CPR, AED, and Naloxone use for low or no-cost to the University community;

THAT, the collegiate-based EMS agency at the University of Washington shall offer medical standby services to the community;

THAT, the collegiate-based EMS agency at the University of Washington shall promote community usage of the PulsePoint Respond and PulsePoint AED mobile apps;

THAT, adequate funding shall be allocated by the University of Washington to support the establishment, operation, and sustainability of the collegiate-based EMS agency;

THAT, UW Housing & Food Services and UW Facilities shall provide a space and sleeping quarters on campus that may serve as the main operating home and base for a collegiate-based EMS agency at the University of Washington;

THAT, campus stakeholders such as UW Hall Health, UW Counseling Center, and UW SafeCampus shall act in an advisory capacity to a collegiate-based EMS agency, in order to ensure services are comprehensively addressing campus health and safety;

THAT, UW Emergency Management, UW Police Department, and Environmental Health & Safety shall reflect the operations of a collegiate-based EMS agency in campus emergency preparedness and response plans;

THAT, a comprehensive report on the progress and impact of the collegiate-based EMS agency shall be presented publicly, to ASUW, and to GPSS annually;

THAT, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

Ana Mari Cauce, President of the University of Washington

Tricia Serio, Provost of the University of Washington

Eric Timm, Director of Paramedic Training at the University of Washington

Michael Sayre, Professor of Emergency Medicine

Tom Rea, Professor of Medicine

Susan Stern, Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine

Sally Clark, Vice President, Campus Community Safety at the University of Washington

Denzil Suite, Vice President, Student Life at the University of Washington

Glenna Chang, Associate Vice President, Student Life at the University of Washington

Natacha Foo Kune, Director, UW Counseling Center

Craig Wilson, Chief of the University of Washington Police Department

Cindy Dougherty, Faculty Senate Chair, Professor of Cardiac Nursing

Hillary Godwin, Dean of the School of Public Health, Chair, Board of Deans and Chancellors

Lou Cariello, Vice President, UW Facilities

Carrie Moore, Husky Union Building (HUB) Executive Director

Pamela Schreiber, Housing and Food Services (HFS) Executive Director

Joel Schwarzkopf, Hall Health Executive Director

Mary Kauffman, Hall Health Medical Director

Daron Vchulek , Hall Health Associate Director

Katia Harb, Senior Director, Environmental Health & Safety

Scott Nelson, Fire Safety & Engineering Manager, Environmental Health & Safety

Kelley Biastock, Director of UW Emergency Management

Barry Morgan, Plans, Training & Exercise Manager of UW Emergency Management

Gillian Wickwire, Director of UW SafeCampus

Matt Newman, UW Recreation Director

A.J. Balatico, GPSS President

Jacob Feleke, ASUW President

Jay Cunningham, Student Regent

Mitchell Klein, SAF Chair

Lucas Wang, STF Chair

Kyle McDermott, CSF Program Director

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**End**

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