Statement to Present to Academic Senate, 10/28/26 Meeting

Re: Joint Resolution (Library/Counseling/SGA)

It is the request of the counseling faculty that leadership not only include the opportunity for those affected by relocation of services and departments be included in conversation but that considerations are made related to the nature and function of their work so any environmental requirements are addressed to mitigate negative impacts on their work and the students they serve.

The greatest concern of the Counseling faculty is our ability to maintain the confidentiality of student information and potential FERPA violations since conversations can be heard between cubicles and outside cubicles. Additionally, there is one faculty cubicle cluster that is surrounded by student study areas on three sides. Student to student conversations, outside the cubicles, can frequently be loud and disruptive to those working in that area. As a faculty group, we have been required to physically be on campus and our student and nonstudent meetings are almost exclusively in our cubicles, either in-person or via zoom. As department chair, it can also be very difficult to have conversations that do not risk violating the confidentiality of colleagues.

More student services areas and counseling faculty need to be relocated from the CSS building. It is important that the physical work environment and student's access to services be the most important factors in any decision.

We realize that not everyone understands or is aware of the work we do and that is why it is critical that those in positions of leadership allow opportunities to hear the needs, requests, and concerns of those that may be moved and those that are affected by that move and to make the most appropriate decisions for the sake and benefit of the students and to preserve the student's access to privacy.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the counseling faculty,

Keri Kennedy

Department Chair, Counseling