S.A. Resolution #42
Adding Mental Health Checks to the Daily Check

ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for the addition of a mental health and wellbeing related question on the Daily Check portal to better connect students with mental health resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sponsored by: Anuli Ononye '22, Sam Caplan '23, Cat Huang '21, Uche Chukwukere '21, Selam Woldai '23

Whereas, the Daily Check has provided a resource for students to communicate their health and wellbeing with the university daily throughout the pandemic;

Whereas, as a component of Cornell’s pandemic response, community members are required to complete a Daily Check, in which people can report symptoms of COVID-19 and access immediate follow-up care from Cornell Health and the Tompkins County Health Department;

Whereas, Cornell has committed to prioritizing student’s mental health and wellbeing, taking additional steps such as extending the course drop date this semester and providing additional resources for students mourning and grieving during the 2020-21 academic year;

Whereas, symptoms of mental health crises are not easily detectable and recognized through distanced learning;

Whereas, Cornell EARS (Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service) recently announced and will no longer be providing peer counseling to the Cornell community;

Whereas, Cornell’s Mental Health Review Final Report (March 2020) calls for the “increase [of] help-seeking behavior and identifying people in need of care” in order to improve students’ wellbeing on campus;

Be it therefore resolved, Cornell administration will incorporate a mental health related question to student questions on the Daily Check form (e.g. Would you like to be connected with a CAPS Counselor?);

Be it further resolved, Students who self-report mental health concerns will be provided additional administrative resources including preference for CAPS counseling;

Be it finally resolved Resources should be provided immediately upon completion of the Daily Check (after indication of self-reported mental health concerns).
Respectfully Submitted,

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(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-2, 4/15/2021)