University of Illinois Springfield
Student Government Association Resolution 044
The Establishment of an Animal-Assisted Activity Outreach Program
Resolution Sponsors: Senator Klages
Co-Sponsors: Internal Vice-President Rosado, Student Hannah Nordby,
Student Payton Raso, and Speaker Kelly

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) Student Government Association (SGA) is vested with the authority to be the voice for the student body; and,

WHEREAS, the SGA serves to improve general student welfare and better the overall environment of UIS; and,

WHEREAS, students of UIS and the UIS Counseling Center have expressed interest in establishing an Animal Assisted-Activity (AAA) outreach program at UIS, for the purpose of improving student welfare during times of elevated stress levels; and,

WHEREAS, the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO) defines AAA, in part, as "informal interactions/visitations often conducted on a volunteer basis by [a] human-animal team for motivational, educational and recreational purposes", in which human-animal teams have "received at least introductory training, preparation and assessment to participate in informal visitations"; and,

WHEREAS, various studies have suggested that AAA decreases depression, negative mood, anxiety, and perceived stress in participants, as well as negative-stigmatization of college counseling centers and mental health services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the SGA advocates for the establishment of an AAA outreach program at UIS, supported and advertised by the UIS Counseling Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SGA shall sponsor, thereby considering requests for funding by and for, an/the AAA outreach program at UIS, upon and following its establishment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SGA recognizes the efforts the students, staff, and administration of the UIS Counseling Center in establishing an AAA outreach program at UIS, as prescribed above.

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Secretary E. Hartney

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President A. Mehmet