

#### Mental Wellness Policy Review Summary & Discussion

# Mental Wellness Policy Review Taskforce Overview

With a serious commitment to eliminating barriers to participation and achievement among students, this taskforce will lead the college in considering and revising institutional policies and/or processes that might negatively impact student mental health. The primary role of the Taskforce is to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive literature review on specific college policies/processes and mental wellness.
2. Review 8 SF policies/processes that involve large numbers of students.
3. Make recommendations to the college on creating new policies/processes or revising current policies/processes to improve student mental wellness.

**Members of the Taskforce**

* Bill Stephenson (Chair), Andrea Evangelist, Kalpana Swamy, Sheila Bishop, Kezia Awadzi, Sheryl Lee, Nance Lempinen-Leedy, Lauren Hyden

**Policies/Processes Under Review**

*Current Policies*

* [7.9 Academic Progress](https://www.sfcollege.edu/Assets/sf/rules/pdfs/Rule_7/7_9.pdf) (Academic warning, probation, suspension, etc.)
* [7.11 Student Fees and Refunds](https://www.sfcollege.edu/Assets/sf/rules/pdfs/Rule_7/7_11.pdf) (Fee types and amounts; refund criteria)
* [7.12 Fee Deferments](https://www.sfcollege.edu/Assets/sf/rules/pdfs/Rule_7/7_12.pdf) (Eligible students, circumstances, and length of time for deferment)
* [7.21 Academic Objectives and Attendance](https://www.sfcollege.edu/Assets/sf/rules/pdfs/Rule_7/7_21.pdf) (Course objective and attendance expectations, penalties)
* [7.22 Petitions Committee (Student Registration)](https://www.sfcollege.edu/Assets/sf/rules/pdfs/Rule_7/7_22.pdf) (Petitions criteria, deadline; committee composition)
* [7.27P Financial Aid Appeals Committee (Procedure)](https://www.sfcollege.edu/Assets/sf/rules/pdfs/Rule_7/7_27P.pdf) (Number, sequence of reviewers, etc.)

*Additional policies for consideration*

* 3rd/4th Attempts (Current policy for 3rd/4th attempts at passing courses is outdated)
* Training Faculty (Potential protocols for faculty training on student mental health)

**Discussion Questions**

* In what ways have you have seen these policies impact your students’ mental health (by causing unnecessary stress and anxiety, for instance)? Alternatively, what concerns do you have about how these policies may be impacting student mental health?
* What policy changes do you think might make a positive impact on SF students’ mental wellness?
* What additional policies do you think the college might want to implement to support students who may be experiencing mental health challenges, or to support the mental wellness of all students?
* What do you think might be the primary concerns or objections to making changes to current policy or implementing new policy recommendations from a mental wellness perspective (especially among those in your department or area of the college)?