

Question Time

In August 2022, the official university calendar promoted the appearance of a Hope Center mobile unit on our campus, providing free “services” to the campus community. The Women’s Studies Executive Committee received multiple concerned messages about this. While places like Hope Center present themselves as clinical centers, they are in fact exempt from regulatory, licensure, and credentialing oversight that apply to health care facilities. The Hope Center is accredited by ECFA, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. To be accredited by this organization, a non-profit must “subscribe to a written statement of faith clearly affirming a commitment to the evangelical Christian faith or shall otherwise demonstrate such commitment, and shall operate in accordance with biblical truths and practices.” Furthermore, some of the concerned messages received by WOST EC suggested that the Hope Center had space on campus in the past and was asked to leave because of concerns about the type of counseling they were providing.

Can the university explain why, when there are multiple options for actual accredited medical facilities, PFW chose to invite, promote, and effectively endorse a medically unlicensed group on our campus? If it is true that they were previously asked to leave, what has changed in the way the Hope Center does its work that resulted in them being invited back?

Finally, is the administration concerned that endorsing an organization with such an explicit religious agenda that impacts the medical validity of the statements they make during their “counseling” may cause some students distress? Does the administration believe it is appropriate for an administrative unit of a public institution of higher education to endorse groups that evangelize as part of providing what is presented as “medical care”?

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