

By Kara Bogasky

Austin Eng, co-president of the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) resigned from his position last Friday.

SHAC is an umbrella organization that oversees collaborations on health issues between many organizations on campus. It offers student input on issues such as the rules regarding smoking and campaigns on sun safety awareness and the flu shot.

Last spring, Eng hosted a mental health forum sponsored by SHAC and followed up with a survey whose results were shared with several university departments. Since the survey, the counseling center has established an after hours telephone help line, online QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) training, better advertisement of resources and a crisis text line.

Eng was the main organizer behind a second mental health forum that took place on Nov. 10 and was attended by about 100 people.

“I would consider [SHAC] now the leading organization on campus that addresses mental health, considering the forum we held, the survey we conducted, and the collaborations this semester we are facilitating with organizations,” he said before the forum.

Eng said he had planned to follow the forum with a student health survey similar to a survey taken last semester.

Due to his resignation, the survey will be delayed, Eng said, adding that he now hopes to do it through the Counseling Outreach Peer Education (COPE). Eng is a member of COPE.

Eng said his resignation was due to communication issues within SHAC. Until SHAC's elections for the spring semester, his position will remain unfilled, according to co-president, Kristiana Yao.

"Everyone in SHAC contributes to our initiatives - our projects are driven less by rigid titles and more by individual student interest." said co-president Kristiana Yao, in regards to Eng's resignation. "We will continue to plan events around a number of different health initiatives, including mental health and interorganizational outreach."