



RUSA Bill 15F21-07

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Sponsor: University Affairs

Bill to Reestablish Meal Swipes for Charity

Whereas, food insecurity is defined by the USDA as: “the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods”,¹

Whereas, food insecurity has been proven to have direct correlations with poor academic outcomes and increasing health concerns such as stress, depression, obesity, and disordered eating patterns,²

Whereas, according to a study conducted by Rutgers University administration, one (1) in three (3) Rutgers University-New Brunswick (RU-NB) students report experiencing food insecurity in the past 30 days as of 2019,²

Whereas, the Rutgers Student Food Pantry has served a total of close to a thousand (1000) students,²

Whereas, the Dean of Students provides emergency funds such as meal plans, grocery store gift cards, and trips to grocery stores,²

Whereas, RU-NB was granted \$99,647.00 as part of the Hunger-Free Campus Award to be used for addressing student hunger, leverage more sustainable solutions to address basic food needs on campuses; raise awareness of currently-offered campus services; and continue building strategic partnerships at the local, state, and national levels to address food insecurity among students,²

Whereas, the Rutgers Student Food Pantry requires an annual supply of meal swipes to continue qualifying for the Hunger-Free Campus Award,

Whereas, the semiannual Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) Meal Swipes for Charity (MSC) program allows Rutgers student organizations to raise money by collecting donated guest swipes to benefit a charitable organization.

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/measurement.aspx>

² Cuite, C.L., Brescia, S.A., Willson, K., Weintraub, D., Walzer, M., Bates, L. (2020). Basic Needs Insecurity Among Rutgers-New Brunswick Students. <https://go.rutgers.edu/BasicNeedsStudy>

Whereas, the organization receives approximately \$3/guest swipe, with the student organization allowed to table in any of the dining halls, typically for the duration of the semester, after a meeting with the Director of Dining Services,

Whereas, the Rutgers Student Food Pantry has been authorized one-to-one meal swipe equivalency by the Rutgers Dining Services in regards to a donated meal swipe,

Whereas, the MSC program provides a direct avenue for organizations to meet their goals by providing an opportunity to fundraise within the Rutgers University student population,

Whereas, the MSC program gives students the ability to help charitable organizations while also learning about resources offered through these organizations,

Whereas, the MSC program predates the establishment of the Rutgers University Student Assembly in 2007,

Whereas, there is currently no existing base legislation outlining the Meal Swipes for Charity program causing a discrepancy in the legalities,

Be it hereby resolved, all previous legislation pertaining to MSC processes and regulations be null and void,

Be it hereby resolved, the beneficiary status is defined as an entity acquiring the privileges of the MSC program,

Be it hereby resolved, the MSC beneficiary status is granted to the Rutgers Student Food Pantry for every Fall Semester given that they follow all regulations stated in this bill,

Be it hereby resolved, the Rutgers Student Food Pantry will not be eligible to apply for the Spring Semester beneficiary status under any circumstances,

Be it hereby resolved, if the Rutgers Student Food Pantry does not accept the beneficiary status, they will be ineligible for the status until the following Fall Semester,

Be it hereby resolved, the following shall outline the procedure that will take place for every Spring Semester:

1. The University Affairs Committee will create and publicize an application for student organizations to apply for the beneficiary status for MSC.
2. The application will be composed of these questions:
 - A. What is the name of your organization?
 - B. What is the mission statement of your organization?
 - C. Indicate the type of your organization.
 - D. What is the name of the charity you plan to support?

- E. Write a brief description and mission statement of that charity.
 - F. How exactly will the money raised be put to use for/by the charity?
 - G. What is your fundraising goal, explain how you intend to reach that goal?
 - H. Explain (logistically) how you intend to reach that fundraising goal with this program?
How many hours and locations can you table a week?
 - I. Given your organization's human and financial resources, why should your organization be chosen to run this program and what is your motivation for doing so? Feel free to use past events/campaigns run by your organization if applicable. (Please limit your response to 200 words.)
 - J. Has your organization planned or participated in fundraising/community service programs in the past? If so, please give a brief description of any such program, including its goals, and the end result of the program.
3. The application deadline will be a month after the date of the release of the application. No extensions will be provided to applicants.
 4. The University Affairs committee will have two (2) weeks after the application closes to select the top three (3) organizations who will be chosen to present in front of the assembly to describe their organization, describe their charity, their reason for wanting to win the beneficiary status, and their plans to table in the dining halls to receive as many guest swipes as possible.
 5. Presentations of the selected organizations will take place at the second immediate assembly meeting following the deadline of the University Affairs Committee's decision. On the same day the presentations take place, the assembly will vote on which of the three (3) organizations will receive the beneficiary status for the Spring Semester of that year.
 6. The chosen organization will be put into contact with the Director of Dining Services by the University Affairs Committee to determine tabling details and will continue to work with Dining Services until their organization has fulfilled its goal for that term.

Be it hereby resolved, in the event that the Rutgers Student Food Pantry does not receive or accept the beneficiary status for the Fall Semester, the procedure for the Spring Semester will be followed for said Fall Semester,

Be it hereby resolved, the following clauses from Bill F19-10 (Bill to Mandate the Consistent Documentation of the Meal Swipes for Charity Program)³, shall be kept:

1. The Assembly requires all organizations participating in the Meal Swipes for Charity (MSC) program to furnish the RUSA University Affairs Committee with the relevant financial documents tracing the movement and expenditure of such funds, including:
 - A. How much money was delivered to the participating organization, and when these funds were spent or otherwise moved,

³ [RUSA Bill F19-10](#): Bill to Mandate the Consistent Documentation of the Meal Swipes for Charity Program.
Authored by Andrew Petryna.

- B. The information relevant to the raising of funds will be delivered to RUSA by the participating organization within 4 weeks of the conclusion of the Meal Swipes for Charity program,
 - C. The status of funds raised through Meal Swipes for Charity by an organization will be provided to RUSA two weeks before the end of the school year during which the fundraiser was held, in the form of a report, general budget, or document that details how funds were spent;
- 2. The University Affairs Committee shall take reasonable steps to verify the information provided by the organization and shall report the most accurate information in accordance with the below-required procedures;
 - A. The Chairperson of the University Affairs Committee will furnish the Office of the RUSA President with a public report detailing the funds raised and impact of Meal Swipes for Charity for the school year, to the best of the information provided to them, at the conclusion of their term as Chairperson;
 - 3. Failure of an organization to furnish RUSA with this required information 4 weeks following the conclusion of the school year in which the Meal Swipes iteration occurred will result in that organization receiving a written warning from the University Affairs Committee, and a reminder as to what information is demanded;
 - 4. If an organization fails to furnish the University Affairs Committee with the requested information within a month of a written warning being issued, the offending organization will be ineligible to apply for future Meal Swipes for Charity opportunities until the information is supplied and verified, or within 3 years and one month of the warning being issued;
 - 5. If an organization fails to furnish the University Affairs Committee with the required information for an entire year following a ban on Meal Swipes for Charity opportunities, the University Affairs Committee will conduct an investigation as to where the information is and why it has not been delivered;
 - 6. Any organization barred from participating in Meal Swipes for Charity can, at any point, file a one-time appeal to the Executive Board and present their case for termination of the ban;
 - 7. Subsequent appeals may be filed by a new executive board of the offending club, but the Executive Board of RUSA is not obligated to hear them;
 - 8. If the Executive Board upholds such a ban, it shall expire within 3 years and one month of the initial warning being issued by the University Affairs Committee, or until the required information is delivered;
 - 9. Any organization barred from participating in Meal Swipes for Charity can furnish the required information at any time during a ban to automatically terminate it;

10. If either the University Affairs Committee or Executive Board finds evidence of wrongdoing or bad faith practices on the part of a student organization in their investigations, they shall report these malpractices to the appropriate University authorities;
11. Following the selection of an organization as the facilitator of that semester's Meal Swipes for Charity, RUSA will deliver a memo or other official document signed by the President to Rutgers Dining Services confirming the selection; and
12. The Chair of the University Affairs Committee, or another designee of the Committee, shall furnish the terms of this legislation to every applicant to the Meal Swipes for Charity program, and each applicant shall consent to the terms therein as a condition of being considered for the program.

Be it hereby resolved, the University Affairs Committee must check with Rutgers Dining Services each semester to ensure the MSC program will be supported. If Rutgers Dining Services is unable to support the program, the University Affairs Committee is relinquished from its duties pertaining to this program for that semester,

Be it finally resolved, these mandates take effect starting with the Fall 2021 iteration of the Meal Swipes for Charity program.

Passed: October 21st, 2021
Unanimous Consent