

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF ASU
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE ASSEMBLY
NINETEENTH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

April 2, 2021

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 21

INTRODUCED BY
BRANDON FAVRE, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT AND ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR THE
COLLEGE - LIFE SCIENCES

A RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION,

WHEREAS, the [GPSA Advocacy Agenda](#) priorities include advocating for food security for all graduate students¹;

WHEREAS, GPSA established an ad-hoc committee dedicated to supporting the needs of students during the COVID-19 crisis and previously expressed interest in creating a GPSA pantry at the GSC in the different campuses to support graduate students and their families;

NOTING THAT, graduate students are often challenged with external stressors with finances and other non-academic-related difficulties, especially graduate students who are parents, guardians of children, or other dependent caregivers, and international students;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, the [GPSA Advocacy Agenda](#) priorities include advocating for Health and Well-Being for all graduate students²;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, about [70 percent](#) of non-traditional college students, including older individuals, end up dropping out; their dropout rate is the [highest](#) of any demographic; and some students point to or list that the financial impact of purchasing food and lack of appropriate nutrients to daily nutritional support resources for themselves and their family as the reason of their attrition, lower academic achievement (e.g., student GPAs, etc.), and lower or disparate reported health outcomes³;

¹ Provision 1 of 2020-2021 [GPSA Advocacy Agenda](#)

² Provision 1 of 2020-2021 [GPSA Advocacy Agenda](#) & [ASU's Charter](#)

³ Hagedorn R, Offert M. Food Insecurity and Behavioral Characteristics for Academic Success in Young Adults Attending an Appalachian University. *Nutrients*. 2018;10(3): 361. doi: [10.3390/nu10030361](#)

FURTHER NOTING THAT, per the [USDA](#), for a family of four eating on a “low-cost” meal plan, the weekly cost ranges from \$173-205;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, a [recent study](#) of 600 households conducted in 2020 by ASU researchers found that 32% of Arizona households experienced food insecurity since COVID-19, a 28% increase from the year before the pandemic;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, according to the [2018 Government Accountability Office](#) (GAO) Report (United States GAO) and [2016 Hunger on Campus Report](#) (Dubick), 30% of college students are food insecure; 56% of food-insecure students are working; 75% of food-insecure students receive financial aid;

WHEREAS, the ASU [25 actions to support Black students](#), faculty, and staff includes promoting student success and well-being among Black students and all students of color;

NOTING THAT, food insecurity numbers are disproportionately higher among students of color, with 57% of Black students and 56% of Latino students reporting food insecurity according to the [2016 Hunger on Campus Report](#);

WHEREAS, the [ASU Charter](#) specifies that, as an institution, we are measured by whom we include and how they succeed, but financial aid packages often do not account accurately for the needs of graduate and professional students with children or other dependents;

NOTING THAT, the [CCAMPIS grant](#) is only available to undergraduate students at ASU;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, not all graduate and professional students fill out the FAFSA as many graduate and professional students are not eligible for FAFSA-related funding, and the FAFSA often does not provide the University with an accurate representation of the student’s ability to pay tuition as well as support a family with their basic needs;

WHEREAS, universities across the United States offer programs to support their students with access to free perishable and non-perishable food ([650 Universities as of 2018](#));

NOTING THAT, ASU has a student-operated club, “[The Pitchfork Pantry](#),” existing since 2015 on the Downtown and Tempe campuses, with newly formed clubs at the West and Poly campus, with no additional University support and no mention of existence on the Dean of Students [basic needs website](#), small physical spaces on the Downtown and Tempe campuses with no physical space at the West and Poly campus, and weekend pop-up markets that serve a large number of graduate students, particularly international graduate students;

NOTING THAT, the University of Arizona has a [Campus Pantry](#) supported by the university and is clearly located on the main university web page for easy access and visibility to all students and staff, as well as employs a full-time staff member and dedicated space in the Memorial Union that sees upwards of 1000 students per week;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, Northern Arizona University has “[Louie’s Cupboard](#),” run through the Dean of Students, and supplies students, staff, and faculty with food through bi-weekly fresh food distributions and daily grab-and-go bags of non-perishable food items;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, the University of California (UC) system of schools established a [Global Food Initiative](#) that provides the 10 UC’s campuses with \$226,000 per school to support the immediate challenges of ensuring that students have ready access to nutritious foods and support food pantries on each campus;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, the University of Oregon has a student food pantry run through the Dean of Students office that provides food, [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) enrollment help and access to free fresh produce, and a [dedicated webpage](#) for easy access and visibility to all students;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, the University of Washington has a food pantry available to students, staff, and faculty, is located on the student services [webpage](#), and provides curbside pick-up to get 3-4 days worth of food with non-perishable food items, UW farm organic produce, ready-to-eat items from campus dining locations and hygiene products;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, Washington State has a food pantry, run by a partnership between the Office for Access and Opportunity, Women’s Center, Center for Civic Engagement, and Office of the Dean and Students, clearly visible on the main university [website](#), and provides to-go bags of non-perishable food items;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, the University of Alabama has a [food pantry](#) run by Student Care and Well Being, and offers assistance to register for SNAP;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, the University of Michigan has the “[Maize and Blue Cupboard](#)” available to students and staff, run by Student Life, and provides fresh and non-perishable foods, kitchen and cooking supplies, personal and other household items, as well as assistance registering in SNAP,

FURTHER NOTING THAT, the University of Arkansas has the “[Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Food Pantry](#)” available to students, staff, and faculty, run through the Division of Student Affairs

Center for Community Engagement, and provides fresh food from their garden and non-perishable food items;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, the University of Florida has the “[Alan and Cathy Hitchcock Field & Fork Pantry](#)” available to students, staff, and faculty, run through the Division of Student Affairs, and provides online ordering access through Qualtrics to order a pre-made to-go bag of food;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, the University of Central Florida has the “[Knights Pantry](#),” supported by the Student Union and funded by the Student Government Association and community donors, available to students, staffed by an associate and assistant director, and provides a curb-side pick-up option for non-perishable food items;

FURTHER NOTING THAT, [ASU recognizes the need](#) for additional resources for student-parents or other student-dependent caregivers and is aware of the student attrition rates associated with non-traditional students burdened with caregiving and dependent-care responsibilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, for ASU’s FY/AY 2020-2021, GPSA requests that, in collaboration with appropriate ASU Administrative departments or ASU Administration assignees, and at the immediate or nearest-possible occasion, ***ASU establishes and develops basic needs coalition including leadership from across the university, students and community leaders to identify key resources within the university and surrounding community for each campus and expand upon the current basic needs website***, with additional student services support to assist students in applying for government aid including the USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and clear visibility to all resources that exist for students on the main university web page;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, to improve access to food pantry services at ASU; the GPSA Assembly endorses the creation of a ‘Virtual Pitchfork Pantry’ as a supplement, or expansion of, on-campus, in-person food pantries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, for this legislative session or current ASU’s FY/AY 2020-2021, GPSA (under the purview of the GPSA 20th Legislative Session’s Summer Operations Committee) would allocate a previously allocated amount per AR 18 from the current ASU GPSA’s FY/AY 2020-2021 unexpended or unallocated budget of GPSA to support of the “PitchFork” pantry and the GPSA pantry, with the disbursement and management of these funds being overseen by the GPSA Wellness Committee, GPSA Director of Wellness, the GPSA President, and the GPSA Assembly President;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, a vote of the Assembly shall resolve any disputes regarding the distribution of these funds;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the expansion of food security across all campuses is initiated by Summer 2021 and established by the end of Fall 2021.