
Resolution To Ensure Food Pantry Expansion and Institutionalization

Author(s):

Amaya Rodriguez-Agiss (She/Her/Ella), Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA)

Committee Chair

Jonathan Martinez (He/Him/His), College of Arts and Sciences Senator

Osasogie Iyoha (He/Him/His), Vistas Senator

Sponsoring Senator(s):

Ceci Fletcher (She/Her/Hers), Clerk of the Senate

Sean Pala (Him/Him/His), Vistas Senator

Jordan Bayon (He/Him/His), School of Engineering Senator

Deborah Ilupeju (She/Her/Hers), Valley A Senator

Angelica Gaupman (She/Her/Hers), Health and Wellness Coordinator

Date: Thursday, Nov 30th, 2023

WHEREAS, the existing infrastructure and financial resources allocated to the University of San Diego's Food Pantry falls short in adequately catering to the needs of nearly 300 students who have indicated a requirement for food assistance. The Associated Student Government has engaged in comprehensive discussions with the Assistant Director of Student Activities and Involvement (SAI), the administrator responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Food Pantry, to address concerns pertaining to the available space and funding constraints.

WHEREAS, the Food Pantry originated as a filing cabinet located on the fourth floor of the Student Life Pavilion, it was initially financially supported by the Associated Student Government and the Graduate Student Government. Under the dedicated efforts of the Assistant Director of SAI and the former Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Cynthia Avery, the Food Pantry experienced growth through additional funding sources. This expansion was facilitated through donations, the establishment of a partnership with the San Diego Food Bank, and grant acquisitions, collectively contributing to the progressive development of the Food Pantry.

WHEREAS, the Food Pantry received a budget allocation of \$27,000 from the Associated Student Government in Spring 2023, inclusive of reallocations from the year-end surplus. Subsequently, a funding allocation of \$20,000 was provided by the Associated Student Government for the Fall 2023 semester. It is noteworthy that both allocations were fully expended by the end of the semester. These funds currently come from the Speaker of the Senate's budget, funded by the Student Activity Fee, \$94 from part-time students and \$260 from full-time students.

WHEREAS, undergraduate students are currently shouldering the responsibility of meeting the basic needs of their peers, as opposed to the institution taking on the financial responsibility or actively contributing to address these essential requirements. Consequently, students find themselves financing a program that does not benefit every student. Over the six-month period between January to June 2023, the average weekly cost to replenish the Food Pantry exceeded \$1,000. The Associated Student Government is committed to addressing the needs of the undergraduate population. However, over the past three to four years, the financial resources provided by the Associated Student Government have proven insufficient to sustainably support this program to its optimal capacity, constrained by the limitations of our allocated budget.



WHEREAS, 288 students at the end of the Spring 2023 semester were registered to use the Food Pantry. The registration process requires students to sign up every year. By the end of the Fall 2023 semester, 282 students have already signed up. The Food Pantry is approximately 12” x 7”, a small kitchenette between Student Support Services' offices and the Commuter Commons. Given not all 282 students will be there at once, there are up to 70 students per week using the Food Pantry. Ongoing conversations about space expansion have continued amongst the ASG IDEA Committees of both the FY 2022-2023 and FY 2023-2024.

WHEREAS, the quantity of graduate students has demonstrated a consistent upward trend in recent years. Given the rise in the cost of living in San Diego, it is reasonable to anticipate a further escalation in the number of graduate students. Each of the Graduate Schools has been proactively referring an increasing number of students to the food pantry in response to identified needs. The number of graduate student users of the food pantry over the years has increased and the Graduate Student Government (GSG) has also provided financial support to this program. In 2021-2022 graduate students made up 15% of the total number of students using the pantry (26 students). In 2022-2023 there was a jump to 26% and GSG had allocated \$2,000 for this academic year. Thus far in the 2023-2024 academic year, graduate students make up 32% of the total number of students using the pantry (90 graduate students). These numbers are only expected to increase throughout the years to come.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Legislative Branch of the Associated Student Government hereby asserts that the University should allocate a new and more expansive space for the Food Pantry program, especially as various departments relocate and transition to the new Wellness Center. Additionally, the Associated Student Government advocates for the University to allocate financial support to the Food Pantry, committing a minimum of *\$20,000 per semester*, aligning with the current funding provisions from the Associated Student Government. We aim to guarantee that the sum of 20,000 dollars continues to be allocated for products of a similar nature, encompassing both current offerings and accommodating dietary needs.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the institution and its administrators, in conjunction with the members of the Associated Student Government, collectively express a shared commitment to proactively identify and address students' needs through the utilization of the Food Pantry. This collaborative effort aims to bring about substantive changes in response to the concerns identified, thereby enhancing the overall support of basic needs and well-being of the student body. The Associated Student Government shall remain a stakeholder included in conversations and decisions regarding the Food Pantry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Associated Student Government shall work with the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of Student Activities and Involvement, and other relevant university administrators and departments to implement a secured space as departments and offices relocate to the new opening Wellness Center, as well as hold budgetary conversations regarding the University funding of the Food Pantry. In addition, the Associated Student Government requests for the Assistant Director of Student Activities and Involvement (SAI) to remain at the forefront and in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Food Pantry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be delivered to the following individuals for comment and action: Dr. James T. Harris III, *President, University of San Diego*; Dr. Gail Baker, *Senior Vice President and Provost*; Ms. Charlotte Johnson, *Vice President for Student Affairs*; Dr. Regina Dixon-Reeves, *Vice Provost, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*; Dr. Byron Howlett, *Assistant Vice President for Student Life*; Dr. Nicole Whitner, *Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students*; Dr. Soha Jafarzade, *Associate Director for Community Engagement & Inclusion*; Mr. Andrew Allen, *Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Initiatives*; Dr. Timothy Keane, *Dean, Knauss School of Business*; Dr. Noelle Norton, *Dean, College of Arts and Sciences*; Dr. Chell Roberts, *Dean Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering*; Ms. Janes Georges, *Dean of Nursing and Health Science*; Ms. Patricia Marquez, *Dean of Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies*; Kimberly White-Smith, *Dean of School of*



Leadership and Education Sciences; Steve Sumner, 2023-24 Chair of University Senate; Jennifer Lee, Director of Student Activities and Involvement.

Amaya Rodriguez Agiss

February 21, 2024

Co-Author, Amaya Rodriguez-Agiss, ASG IDEA Committee Chair

Date

Jonathan Martinez

February 21, 2024

Co-Author, Jonathan Martinez, ASG College of Arts and Sciences Senator

Date

Osasogie Iyoha

February 21, 2024

Co-Author, Osasogie Iyoha, ASG Vistas Senator

Date

Steve Sumner

February 22, 2024

Gunner Kolon, ASG Speaker of the Senate

Date

Andres Fernandez Perez

February 21, 2024

Andres Fernandez Perez, ASG President

Date

