UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

Senate Resolution No.: R.F. **Date Submitted: 4.21.24**

Date Introduced: 4.16.24

Introduced By: Chair Murphy **Date Action Taken: 11.9.2021**

Sponsored: _____
Senator Jones

Certified: _____
Speaker of the Senate Connors

Signed: _____
President Teferra

Resolution Calling UVM to Hire a Food Justice Advocate and Expand Food Security Resources

WHEREAS, food insecurity is defined by the USDA as, "a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food",[1]

WHEREAS, according to UVM's Center for Health and Wellbeing, "1 in 5 UVM students are food insecure",[2]

[1] "USDA ERS - Definitions of Food Security." *USDA ERS - Home*, https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/definitions-of-food-security/. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

[2] *Food Insecurity at UVM | Center for Health & Wellbeing at UVM | The University of Vermont*. https://www.uvm.edu/health/food-insecurity-uvm. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 UVM students translates to 2,705 undergraduate or graduate students who are food insecure on UVM's campus,

WHEREAS, food insecurity affects the mental, physical, emotional, and academic wellbeing of students,

WHEREAS, existing food insecurity resources on campus are not adequate, accessible, or sufficient to meet the current needs of UVM students,

WHEREAS, the UVM Student Government Association, henceforth referred to as the SGA, joins student organizations working to address food insecurity on campus and other individual advocates in calling on UVM to hire a Food Justice Advocate and bolster resources for food insecure community members,

LET IT BE KNOWN, a 2019 qualitative study conducted across ten University of California campuses identified negative academic impact as one of the effects that food insecurity has on students,[3]

LET IT BE KNOWN, a 2019 study of first-year U.S. college students found that students who experienced food insecurity had a significantly higher chance of having a GPA less than 3.0 compared to food secure students,[4]

LET IT BE FURTHER KNOWN, that when controlling for sociodemographic factors, food insecure students were 1.91 times more likely to have a GPA less than 3.0, [5]

LET IT BE KNOWN, that high costs of living in Burlington and surrounding counties makes UVM students uniquely susceptible to experiencing food insecurity,

LET IT BE KNOWN, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines affordable housing as, "housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying no more than 30 percent of

[3] "'It's a Feeling That One Is Not Worth Food': A Qualitative Study Exploring the Psychosocial Experience and Academic Consequences of Food Insecurity Among College Students - ScienceDirect." *ScienceDirect.Com | Science, Health and Medical Journals, Full Text Articles and Books.*, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212267218306932?via%3Dihub. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

[4] "Prevalence and Correlates of Food Insecurity among U.S. College Students: A Multi-Institutional Study | Scholars Portal Journals." *Scholars Portal Journals*, https://journals.scholarsportal.info/details/14712458/v19inone/nfp_pacofiucsams.xml. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

[5] "Prevalence and Correlates of Food Insecurity among U.S. College Students: A Multi-Institutional Study | Scholars Portal Journals." *Scholars Portal Journals*, https://journals.scholarsportal.info/details/14712458/v19inone/nfp_pacofiucsams.xml. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

his or her income for gross housing costs, including utilities", while in 2020, 33% of people renting in Burlington were spending 50% or more of their income on housing,[6]

LET IT BE KNOWN, the UVM Office of Student and Community Relations 2024 Off Campus Student Survey found 35% of students experienced financial issues paying rent, 30% experienced financial issues paying for utilities, and 39% of students experienced financial issues paying for food,

LET IT BE KNOWN, according to the UVM website page titled "Food Insecurity at UVM", existing resources for students experiencing food insecurity on campus consist of "Swipe Out Hunger", "Rally Cat's Cupboard", and "Off-Campus Food and Social Services",[7]

LET IT BE KNOWN, swipe out hunger "is for students who live off campus (undergraduate, graduate, and medical) who are struggling with financial difficulties and experiencing challenges paying for food. Swipe out hunger offers short-term help until you are connected with sustainable funding or other resources",[8]

LET IT BE KNOWN, Swipe Out Hunger primarily relies on the donated meal swipes of students and is supplemented "in the event that there is a greater need than what this bank currently has the capacity to address, the Dean of Students Office will help fund additional students",[9]

LET IT BE KNOWN, in its first semester during the 2018-2019 school year, Swipe Out Hunger gathered enough donations to provide meal swipes for 45 students, based on UVM's own data that 1 in 5 UVM students are food insecure, 2465 students were food insecure at the time,[10]

LET IT BE KNOWN, currently, Rally Cats Cupboard is a student run, donation based, organization, receiving no funding from UVM whose success is dependent on the motivation and compassion of the student body,

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[6] "Glossary of HUD Terms | HUD USER." PD&R Archive Page, https://archives.huduser.gov/portal/glossary/glossary_a.html#:~:text=AFFORDABLE%20HOUSING%3A%20In%20general%2C%20housing,gross%20housing%20costs%2C%20including%20utilities. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

[7] *Food Insecurity at UVM | Center for Health & Wellbeing at UVM | The University of Vermont*. https://www.uvm.edu/health/food-insecurity-uvm. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

[8] *Swipe Out Hunger | Center for Health & Wellbeing at UVM | The University of Vermont*. https://www.uvm.edu/health/forms/swipe-out-hunger. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

[9] *Swipe Out Hunger | Center for Health & Wellbeing at UVM | The University of Vermont*. https://www.uvm.edu/health/forms/swipe-out-hunger. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

[10] Author, Guest. "UVM Launches Swipe Out Hunger Program for StudentsUVM Food Feed." *UVM Food Feed*, 19 Mar. 2019, https://learn.uvm.edu/foodsystemsblog/2019/03/19/swipe-out-hunger/.

LET IT BE KNOWN, to qualify for 3SquaresVT food benefits also commonly known as SNAP benefits, an individual must work a minimum of 20 hours a week or 80 hours a month, according to the USDA, which is not reasonable for full time students,[11]

LET IT BE KNOWN, other off campus pantries are inaccessible for UVM students and by directing UVM students to off campus pantries additional burdens are placed on pantries who lack resources UVM has,

BE IT RESOLVED, in order to meet the needs of food insecure community members at UVM the SGA calls on UVM to hire a Food Justice Advocate,

BE IT RESOLVED, the SGA calls on UVM to bolster existing resources to meet the needs of food insecure community members at UVM,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, providing timely updates to the UVM Hunger Collaborative on administrative initiatives addressing food insecurity,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the SGA calls on UVM to provide adequate support and collaboration opportunities to student groups and faculty members already working to mitigate the impacts of food insecurity on campus,

Commented [M(1]: i think I want one more be it resolved surrounding "We call on the university of Vermont administration to provide adequate support and collaboration opportunities to faculty and students working to mitigate the impacts of food insecurity on campus."

[11] "Students | Food and Nutrition Service." USDA Food and Nutrition Service | Food and Nutrition Service, https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/students#:~:text=Work%20at%20least%2020%20hours,federally%20financed%20work%20study%20program. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.