

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Joint Legislative Session

September 13, 2022

J.R. 2

Sponsors: GPSG Delegate Nicole States on behalf of USG Director Erin Sullivan, USG Senator Torie Thayer

Joint Session Action: Passed/Failed/Tabled

A Joint Resolution

On the subject of recognition and support for The Food Pantry at Iowa.

Section 1: Short Title

This resolution may be cited as the “Joint Resolution on the subject of The Food Pantry at Iowa”

Section 2: Background and Discussion

Whereas, The Food Pantry at Iowa is a student-run organization at the University of Iowa which aims to provide resources for food insecure students, faculty, and staff as well as raise awareness of food insecurity; and,

Whereas, in the 2021-2022 academic year, the Food Pantry at Iowa saw 4,572 unique visits from university undergraduate students, graduate and professional students, and staff¹; and,

Whereas, in the 2021-2022 academic year, the Food Pantry distributed 98,916 lbs. of food¹; and,

Whereas, the food pantry’s pounds of food distributed increased 42% from the 2020-2021 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, and 452% from the 2019-2020 academic year to the 2020-2021 academic year¹; and,

Whereas, in the 2021-2022 academic year, 26% of the total pounds of food distributed was dispensed to faculty and staff¹, indicating that food insecurity not only affects students at the University of Iowa, but employees as well; and,

Whereas, according to the University of Iowa Division of Student Life Graduate and Professional Student Needs Assessment, 5.3% of student respondents reported they went without

¹ (2022). (rep.). *The Food Pantry at Iowa* (pp. 1–2). Iowa City, Iowa.

food in the prior month², and 60% of food distributed by the food pantry was disbursed to this population¹; and,

Whereas, 70% of student visitors identified as a race other than white¹, and volunteers have observed high demand for culturally diverse foods³ which require a larger budget due to importation costs; and,

Whereas, Food Pantry volunteers have observed that the existing food supply is insufficient to meet our community's level of need and keep food on their shelves throughout the week³, rendering the Food Pantry incapable of fulfilling its primary purpose of distributing food to students and staff experiencing food insecurity; and,

Whereas, The Food Pantry at Iowa estimates they will need to increase their food supply by 50% this academic year to meet demand³; and,

Whereas, very low food security is associated with increased levels of depression, anxiety, and stress among students⁴; and,

Whereas, in the 2021-2022 academic year, in addition to providing food to students and staff, The Food Pantry at Iowa collaborated with Graduate and Professional Student Government to offer sustainable menstrual products to visitors at the food pantry with GPSG allocating \$4,000 to the food pantry for the aforementioned supplies.

Section 3: Action

Resolved, the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) and the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) at the University of Iowa encourage continued support of the Iowa Food Pantry as an organization who offers aid to students, faculty, and staff facing food insecurity and therefore supports a diverse population of campus community members.

Resolved, GPSG and USG recommend an appropriate increase in funding for the Iowa Food Pantry to compensate for the continued rise in demand from students, faculty, and staff from previous years.

Resolved, GPSG and USG request appropriate consideration and plans be made to allow for the sustainable growth of the Iowa Food Pantry.

Therefore, be it resolved that, upon passage by the Graduate and Professional Student Government and Undergraduate Student Government at the University of Iowa, and with

² Nelson et al. (2022). (rep.). *Graduate & Professional Student Needs Assessment* (pp. 9). Iowa City, Iowa.

³ Sullivan, E., Beecher, S., & Dougherty, A. (2022, September 2). Food Pantry at Iowa. personal.

⁴ Coffino JA, Spoor SP, Drach RD, Hormes JM. Food insecurity among graduate students: prevalence and association with depression, anxiety and stress. *Public Health Nutr.* 2021 May;24(7):1889-1894. doi: 10.1017/S1368980020002001. Epub 2020 Aug 14. PMID: 32792027.

signatures from President Crow and President Patrick Johnson, the University of Iowa should continue funding for the Iowa Food Pantry, increase funding due to climbing utilization, and begin efforts to achieve sustainability of this student organization into the future.

4. Enactment Clause

Be it enacted by University of Iowa Undergraduate Student Government and Graduate and Professional Student Government upon the signatures of President Johnson and President Crow.

I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated from the 2022-2023 Joint Session.

Alexis Carfrae,

Carfrae

USG Speaker of the Senate Alexis

Grace Bryant,

Bryant

GPSG Cabinet Director Grace

APPROVED on 9/13/2022

Patrick Johnson,

USG President Patrick Johnson

Amber D. Crow,

GPSG President Amber Crow