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

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1 (2022). (rep.). The Food Pantry at Iowa (pp. 1–2). Iowa City, Iowa.
food in the prior month\(^2\), and 60% of food distributed by the food pantry was disbursed to this population\(^1\); and,

\textit{Whereas}, 70% of student visitors identified as a race other than white\(^1\), and volunteers have observed high demand for culturally diverse foods\(^3\) which require a larger budget due to importation costs; and,

\textit{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 week\(^3\), rendering the Food Pantry incapable of fulfilling its primary purpose of distributing food to students and staff experiencing food insecurity; and,

\textit{Whereas}, The Food Pantry at Iowa estimates they will need to increase their food supply by 50% this academic year to meet demand\(^3\); and,

\textit{Whereas}, very low food security is associated with increased levels of depression, anxiety, and stress among students\(^4\); and,

\textit{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.

\textbf{Section 3: Action}

\textit{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. \textit{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.

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

\textit{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.). \textit{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.

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.

______________________________, USG Speaker of the Senate Alexis Carfrae
Alexis Carfrae

______________________________, GPSG Cabinet Director Grace Bryant
Grace Bryant

APPROVED on 9/13/2022

______________________________, USG President Patrick Johnson
Patrick Johnson

______________________________, GPSG President Amber D. Crow
Amber D. Crow