



Cornell University Student Assembly

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Originally Presented On | Date: 4/23/2015 |
| Type of Action | Legislation |
| Status/Result | New Business |

S.A. Resolution # 65 Developing and funding a student-run grocery store

Sponsored by: Matthew Stefanko '16, Emma Johnston '16

Whereas, Article II of the Student Assembly Charter charges the assembly with “the authority and responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the student community”;

Whereas, the most recent PULSE survey of Cornell University indicates that 3% (Very Often), 5% (Often), and 14% (Occasionally) of undergraduates “have skipped meals or not had enough to eat because of financial constraints” in the current academic year, indicating some level of food insecurity for over 3,500 registered Cornell undergraduates;

Whereas, the Hurtado report identifies a number of complex socioeconomic issues that “were plainly evident in the quantitative data, where students reported distinct experiences based on socioeconomic status,” and qualitatively describe their exclusion as a “daily feeling”;

Whereas, food insecurity remains a hidden issue at Cornell due to this socioeconomic divide and the wealth typically associated with Ivy-League institutions;

Whereas, the Students Helping Students Grant’s Endowment possesses approximately \$1,521,630 in principal which generates annual interest income over \$72,000 per year;

Whereas, the average need and withdrawal over the past six years has averaged \$16,596.42 creating a difference in expenditure versus income of \$55,403.58;

Whereas, the Summer Experience Grant can be comfortably sustained with a yearly allocation of \$30,000.00 creating an average expenditure of \$46,596.42 and a difference in expenditure versus income of \$25,403.58;

Whereas, a reduction in principal of 22.5% would leave the fund with \$1,161,000 which would generate approximately \$55,147.922 in annual interest per year allowing the fund to maintain its mission of providing summer internship stipends (\$30,000 per year) and emergency financial aid (approximately \$17,000 per year) with rollover in case of years with high demand (\$8,147.92);

Whereas, the original Resolution (Resolution on the Use of the Students Helping Students Financial Aid Fund; Biro 1989) states that “the Student Assembly must decide how this fund is to be used” and that they “reserve the right...to make changes annually in the Students



Cornell University Student Assembly

42 Helping Students Financial Aid Fund categories that are offered to Cornell University
43 undergraduate students”;

44

45 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly, with support from the Financial Aid
46 Review Committee, found a student-run grocery store in the basement kitchen of Anabel
47 Taylor Hall that addresses food insecurity on the Ithaca campus of Cornell University by
48 providing financial assistance to students who demonstrate need;

49

50 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the student-run grocery store implements programs on
51 healthy and affordable cooking lessons on cost-effective eating and teaches students small-
52 business and project management skills to fulfill its educational mission;

53

54 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly Financial Aid Review Committee
55 allocates \$360,000.00 from the Students Helping Students Grant Endowment for the
56 renovation (\$250,000), subsidy fund (\$75,000), start-up costs (\$20,000), summer
57 employment (\$5,000), and initial programming (\$10,000) of the student-run grocery store;

58

59 **Be it further resolved**, that the Chair of the Financial Aid Review Committee will be
60 placed on the Board of Advisors of the Student-Run Grocery Store as a voting member with
61 full privileges;

62

63 **Be it further resolved**, that the \$360,000 is transferred to the student-run grocery store
64 operating account if a working group drawn from the Financial Aid Review Committee, in a
65 majority vote, approves the following documentation on the following dates:

66 • Discount / food scholarship structure: June 1st

67 • Comprehensive business plan: July 1st

68 • All necessary Cornell approvals: August 15th

69 This working group should consist of three undergraduate students from the previous years'
70 Financial Aid Review Committee, the chair of the 2014-2015 Financial Aid Review
71 Committee, the chair of the 2015-2016 Financial Aid Review Committee, the Dean of
72 Students, the Director of Financial Aid, the Associate Director of Financial Aid, and the Vice
73 President of Student and Campus Life;

74

75 **Be it finally resolved**, that any unspent renovation, start-up, summer employment, and
76 initial programming funds be returned to the Students Helping Students fund in an
77 expeditious manner.

78

79 **Respectfully Submitted,**

80

81 **Matthew Stefanko '16**

82 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*

83



Cornell University Student Assembly

84 **Emma Johnston '16**

85 *Arts & Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*

86

87 *Reviewed by Financial Aid Review Committee & Executive Committee 4/28/15*