



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

ABSTRACT: This resolution takes \$400,000 from the Students Help Students Grant and uses it to develop a student-run grocery store that aims to increase food literacy, decrease food insecurity, and provide easier access to groceries in Anabel Taylor Hall

Whereas, Article II 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 currents academic year, indicating food security;

Whereas, food insecurity remains a hidden issue at Cornell due to the wealth typically associated with Ivy-League institutions, rendering food pantries ineffective because of the stigma associated with using them;

Whereas, the Students Helping Students Grant’s Endowment possesses over \$1,600,000 in principal which generates annual interest income over \$75,000 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 \$58,404.58;

Whereas, the projected expenditure of the Summer Experience Grant will be \$30,000.00 creating an average expenditure of \$46,596.42 and a difference in expenditure versus income of \$28,404.58;

Whereas, a reduction in principal of 25% would leave the fund with \$1,200,000 which would generate \$60,000 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 (\$8,000);

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

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

43
44 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly found a student-run grocery store in
45 the basement kitchen of Anabel Taylor Hall that addresses food insecurity on the Cornell
46 campus by providing financial assistance to students in need;

47
48 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the student-run grocery store implements programs on
49 healthy and cooking lessons on cost-effective eating and teaches students small-business
50 and project management skills to fulfill its educational mission;

51
52 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly Financial Aid Review Committee
53 allocates \$400,000.00 from the Students Helping Students Grant Endowment for the
54 renovation (\$275,000), subsidy fund (\$75,000), start-up costs (\$25,000), summer
55 employment (\$5,000), and initial programming (\$400,000) of the student-run grocery
56 store;

57
58 **Be it further resolved**, that the Financial Aid Review Committee will be responsible, in
59 conjunction with the executive board of the student-run grocery store, for the development,
60 oversight, and allocation of the subsidy fund to food insecure students;

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

65
66 **Be it further resolved**, that the \$400,000 is only transferred to the student-run grocery
67 store if all necessary approvals are given by Cornell University;

68
69 **Be it finally resolved**, that any unspent renovation, start-up, summer employment, and
70 initial programming funds be returned to the Students Helping Students fund in an
71 expeditious manner.

72
73 **Respectfully Submitted,**

74
75 **Matthew Stefanko '16**
76 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*

77
78 **Emma Johnston '16**
79 *Arts & Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*

80
81 *(Reviewed by: Financial Aid Review Committee, 04/20/2015)*