



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	November 5, 2015
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #22

Developing and Funding Anabel's Student- Run Grocery Store

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks \$320,000 from the Students Helping Students Grant to fund and
5 develop a low-cost student-run grocery store on the Cornell Campus in the basement kitchen of
6 Anabel Taylor Hall.

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8 Sponsored by: Emma Johnston '16, Matthew Stefanko '16
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10 **Whereas**, Article II of the Student Assembly Charter charges the assembly with “the authority and
11 responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the student
12 community;”
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14 **Whereas**, the most recent PULSE survey of Cornell University conducted in Spring 2015 indicates that
15 3% (Very Often), 5% (Often), and 14% (Occasionally) of undergraduates “skipped meals or not had
16 enough to eat because of financial constraints” in the academic year, indicating some level of food
17 insecurity for over 3,500 registered Cornell undergraduates;
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19 **Whereas**, the Hurtado report commissioned by the Cornell University Diversity Council in Spring 2013
20 identifies a number of complex socioeconomic issues that are “plainly evident in the quantitative data,
21 where students reported distinct experiences based on socioeconomic status,” and qualitatively describe
22 their exclusion as a “daily feeling”; leading issues such as food insecurity to remain hidden on a campus
23 with a prevalent socioeconomic divide and aura of wealth;
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25 **Whereas**, the Students Helping Students Grant's Endowment possesses approximately \$1,521,630 in
26 principal which generates annual interest income over \$72,000 per year;
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28 **Whereas**, the average need and withdrawal over the past six years has averaged \$16,596.42 creating a
29 difference in expenditure versus income of \$55,403.58;
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31 **Whereas**, the Summer Experience Grant can be comfortably sustained with a yearly allocation of
32 \$30,000.00 creating an average expenditure of \$46,596.42 and a difference in expenditure versus income
33 of \$25,403.58;
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35 **Whereas**, a reduction in principal of 22.5% would leave the fund with \$1,240,000 which would generate
36 approximately \$58,673.922 in annual interest per year allowing the fund to maintain its mission of
37 providing summer internship stipends (\$30,000 per year) and emergency financial aid (approximately
38 \$17,000 per year) with rollover in case of years with high demand (\$11,673.92);
39

40 **Whereas**, the original Resolution (Resolution on the Use of the Students Helping Students Financial Aid
41 Fund; Biro 1989) states that “the Student Assembly must decide how this fund is to be used” and that
42 they “reserve the right...to make changes annually in the Students Helping Students Financial Aid Fund
43 categories that are offered to Cornell University undergraduate students;”
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45 **Whereas**, a resolution supporting the student-run grocery store was passed by the Student Assembly in
46 April 2015 and has since signed on officially as a project of the Center for Transformative Action, has

47 secured an agreement with Anabel Taylor Hall to operate for the first five years without paying for rent
48 and to operate for the first one year without paying for utilities; has developed a list of purchasers who
49 will supply products to the store at the lowest prices; has created succession plans with the guidance of
50 similar student-run stores on other college campuses for transitioning executive board positions and for
51 recruiting and training new members; has developed a full advisory board that includes members of the
52 Cornell administration, academic departments, and local businesses; has developed a risk management
53 manual to comply with laws regulating New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets; has
54 engaged in several educational programming efforts to teach students how to cook and budget for
55 food and to gather public opinion on the store; has created an exit plan for what will happen to the
56 space in the case that the store fails; has leveraged partnerships with students in academic courses and
57 student organizations; and has developed an updated business plan (See Appendix A);
58

59 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly, with support from the Financial Aid Review
60 Committee, found a student-run grocery store in the basement kitchen of Anabel Taylor Hall that
61 addresses food insecurity on the Ithaca campus of Cornell University by providing low-cost groceries
62 and additional financial assistance to students who demonstrate need, pending project approval from the
63 Cornell/ Community Coordination Committee (4C);
64

65 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the student-run grocery store continues to implement healthy and
66 affordable cooking lessons and other programs on cost-effective eating, to teach students small-business,
67 project management, nutrition programming, and marketing, procurement, and various other skills, and
68 to engage with academic courses in order to fulfill its educational mission;
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70 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly Financial Aid Review Committee allocates
71 \$320,000.00 from the Students Helping Students Grant Endowment for the renovation (\$240,000),
72 subsidy fund (\$40,000), and start-up costs (\$40,000) of the student-run grocery store;
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74 **Be it further resolved**, that the Chair of the Financial Aid Review Committee will be placed on the
75 Board of Advisors of the Student-Run Grocery Store as a voting member with full privileges;
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77 **Be it finally resolved**, that any unspent renovation and start-up funds be returned to the Students
78 Helping Students Fund in an expeditious manner.
79

80 Respectfully Submitted,

81 Emma Johnston

82 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

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84 Matthew Stefanko

85 *Vice President of Finance, Student Assembly*

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87 *(Reviewed by: FARC, 1 November 2015)*
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