RESOLUTION

Senate Bill No.: R. S. 12

Introduced By: Chair McDermott,
Committee on Legislative & Community Affairs

Sponsored: [Signature]
Chair McDermott

Signed: [Signature]
President Foley

Date Submitted: 11/6/2018
Date Introduced: 11/6/2018
Date Action Taken: 11/6/2018

Certified: [Signature]
Speaker of the Senate Scannell

Resolution Supporting Undergraduate Food Pantry

WHEREAS, the health and safety of students at the University of Vermont is a top priority,

WHEREAS, the UVM Student Government Association seeks to serve UVM’s undergraduate population and assist those in need,

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont is an institution that works to uphold the values of Our Common Ground1 and seeks to serve all members of our community,

WHEREAS, a survey was conducted in 2017 and over 25% of UVM undergraduate participants reported experiencing food insecurity2,

WHEREAS, rent and utility costs in Burlington are rising rapidly3, textbooks are becoming more expensive4, and students are continually having a harder time affording to live in Burlington,

WHEREAS, there is a clear and demonstrated need for hunger assistance at UVM,

WHEREAS, 60% of UVM’s comparator institutions provide food pantries and/or related services for food insecure individuals5,6,9,10,

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1 http://www.uvm.edu/president/?Page=miscellaneous/commonground.html
2 Food Insecurity at UVM Info Sheet (data portion attached)
3 https://www.hickokandboardman.com/vermont-market-report/market/rental/page/2/
5 http://hendricks.yvr.edu/services-and-initiatives/food-pantry.html
6 https://students.gwu.edu/store

Dudley H. Davis Center, 590 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05405
Telephone: (802) 656-2053, Fax: (802) 656-7719
WHEREAS, small food pantries are located on-campus in the Mosaic Center for Students of Color and TRIO,

WHEREAS, these food pantries are not equipped to serve students who do not identify with the Mosaic Center or Trio and do not have the capacity to serve the needs of the general student body,

WHEREAS, UVM students have reportedly been using Champlain College’s SWAP Shop\textsuperscript{11},

WHEREAS, it can be challenging for many students to utilize local public pantries and could benefit greatly from a food pantry on campus for undergraduates,

WHEREAS, a food pantry on UVM’s campus will be characterized as a place where undergraduate students who need help affording nutritious foods can find such help,

WHEREAS, this proposed model will provide free food assistance to undergraduates in need and seek to destigmatize the need for help,

WHEREAS, the largest hurdle for this project is finding appropriate space on-campus,

WHEREAS, the SGA will continue the search for space for a permanent implementation of this project and will work to provide temporary solutions in the meantime,

WHEREAS, numerous administrators have expressed support for this project,

WHEREAS, there are numerous public tools available for starting undergraduate food pantries that have been utilized by colleges nationwide,

BE IT RESOLVED that the students of the University of Vermont support the implementation of an on-campus food pantry with an initial allocation estimate of $5,000.00 to be included in the FY19 Student Activities Fee Increase,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UVM Student Government Association will fund, in part, the pilot program for the undergraduate food pantry and will look to keep costs down bearing in mind the burden on SGA’s budget,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the undergraduate food pantry project will be initiated with the eventual intent of moving this project outside of SGA to become its own entity,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon success of the pilot, the UVM Student Government will work to ensure continuity by requesting the University for the minimal funding needed to sustain the food pantry for generations to come.

\textsuperscript{7} \url{https://www.colorado.edu/volunteer/food-assistance/about-food-assistance}
\textsuperscript{8} \url{http://www.umass.edu/cwc/services/IRIS/FoodPantry.html}
\textsuperscript{9} \url{https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/foodpantry/}
\textsuperscript{10} \url{https://www.binghamton.edu/case-management/support/pantry.html}
\textsuperscript{11} \url{https://www.champlain.edu/student-life/campus-and-community-programs/sustain-champlain/resources-sustain-champlain/swap-shop}
The group conducted research on food insecurity at UVM through two surveys in 2017. A random sample of UVM community members (undergraduate, graduate, and medical students and faculty and staff) were sampled with a 24.5% and 25.8% response rate in spring and fall.

Percent of the UVM community who was food insecure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Spring '17 Survey</th>
<th>Fall '17 Survey</th>
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<td>19.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.0%</td>
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By comparison, the national rate in 2016 was 12.3% and in Vermont it was 10.1%.

Students who were the most food insecure:

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<tr>
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<th>Spring '17 Survey</th>
<th>Fall '17 Survey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td>20.0%</td>
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</table>

**THE OFF-CAMPUS EFFECT**

In both surveys, students living off campus were more likely to be food insecure.

**DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS**

In both surveys, first generation students were more likely to be food insecure.

Students of color were more likely to be food insecure in the spring '17 survey only.

Transgender/queer/gender non-conforming students were more likely to be food insecure in the fall '17 survey only.

**TIME IN THE SEMESTER**

Students most frequently cited food insecurity following book/lab/course material purchases and before final exams.

*Margin of error +/- 3%