

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: UB-55018

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Author(s): President Barrett

Sponsor(s): Chief of Staff Lawrence, Chair Bryan, Vice-Chair Veeramachaneni, Senator Pen, Senator Chang, Senator Mehra, Senator Jeffrey, Senator Caceres, Emerging Leader Potts, Emerging Leader Louch

Committee: Administration and Finance

Draft: Final

The Student Hunger Act

Whereas, the University of Houston is committed to serving the most economically vulnerable students;

Whereas, all swipes left and day-passes left on a student's account at the end of each semester are voided;

Whereas, Chartwells donates 200 meal passes to the Urban Experience Program for students in need annually;

Whereas, a Department of Agriculture Survey found that 22% of college students were considered to have "very low food security"¹;

Whereas, the Department of Agriculture defined "very low food security" as a household which "indicates decreases in all areas (quality, variety, desirability, quantity) as well as disrupted eating patterns due to inability to access adequate food."¹

Whereas, the Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services Richard Walker appointed a food insecurity work group to look into the issue of food insecurity at the University of Houston.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Auxiliary Services, in partnership with Chartwells, will make a one-time increase for the 2018-2019 academic year, to the Urban Experience Program, from Two-Hundred (200) to Four-Hundred (400) meal passes annually;

Be it further enacted, Auxiliary Services will allow students to donate a portion of their guest-passes to help students in need by the beginning of Spring 2019, with the following qualifications:

- (1) Students with the 24/7 Platinum meal-plan will be allowed to donate a maximum of five (5) of their guest-passes; and
- (2) Students with the 24/7 Gold meal-plan will be allowed to donate a maximum of three (3) of their guest-passes; and
- (3) Students with the 24/7 Silver meal-plan will be allowed to donate a maximum of one (1) of their guest-passes; and
- (4) All donated guest-passes will be given to the Urban Experience Program's meal voucher program; and
- (5) All donations will be collected during a period of five (5) business days.

Be it further enacted, that the University of Houston will open a food pantry on campus for students struggling with food insecurity, on the condition it is approved by the Food Insecurity Work Group;

Be it further enacted, that the University of Houston's Auxiliary Services Department will close a campus convenient store for the purpose of providing a space for the campus food pantry;

Be it further enacted, that the rent expense for this food pantry will be paid for by the Auxiliary Services Department if located in the Stadium Parking Garage Convenient Store space;

Be it further enacted, that the University of Houston will become a partner agency with the Houston Food Bank to supplement the supply of the food pantry;

Be it further enacted, that the University of Houston will work to meet all of the Houston Food Bank's requirements for partnership and supply of food^{[2][3]};

Be it further enacted, that one week each academic year, Auxiliary Services allow students to settle parking fines with a donation of five, or more, non-perishable food items with the following qualifications:

- (1) The Student Government Association will operate, manage, and facilitate the donation drive; and
- (2) The donations must be received by the Student Government Association; and
- (3) The fine was incurred before the donation week's beginning; and
- (4) The food drive lasts no longer than five (5) business days; and
- (5) It will be a one-time \$25 credit to an account. Multiple credits will not be allowed.

Be it further enacted, that non-perishable food sold in the campus convenient stores passed their sell by date be donated to the campus food pantry or the local food bank when applicable.



Cameron Barrett
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 11/21/18

APPROVED



Kim-Briana Lorine
Pro-Tempore and Acting-Speaker of Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 11/14/2018

¹https://studentsagainsthunger.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Hunger_On_Campus.pdf

²http://www.houstonfoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/agencyservices_becomeanagency_NewAgencyGuidelines.pdf

³http://www.houstonfoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/agencyservices_becomeanagency_FoodStorageRequirements.pdf

