

Label: SGAR46008

Date Introduced: 2-24-10

Author(s): The Fair Labor Action Committee

Co-Author(s):

Sponsor(s): John Price, Michael Harding, Michael McHugh

Committee: Student Life

Draft: First

*Returned to SGA
due to document
considered moot by*
RECEIVED MAR 02 2010 UCC
4/30/10

Resolution Urging the University of Houston Foodservice Contract Holder Aramark to Make an Agreement with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers

WE, THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, HEREBY RESOLVE:

WHEREAS, all University of Houston students, through their student fees, patronage, and required meal plans pay fees that fund a multimillion-dollar foodservice contract between UH and the Aramark Corporation; and

WHEREAS, a majority of foodservice available on campus is contracted through the Aramark Corporation, not least of which are the on-campus dining facilities at which students use their meal plans; and

WHEREAS, Aramark currently purchases copious amounts of tomatoes, 90%-95% of which come from Florida during the winter, and supplies them to the University of Houston in on-campus dining facilities; and

WHEREAS, Florida tomato pickers in Immokalee, Florida make anywhere from 40¢ - 50¢ per thirty-two pound bucket of tomatoes picked and receive no overtime pay; and

WHEREAS, seven slavery cases brought against overseers, managers, and employers involving over 1,000 farm workers from Immokalee, Florida have been prosecuted and *successfully* tried since 1997, in U.S. v. Flores, U.S. v. Cuello, U.S. v. Tecum, U.S. v. Lee, U.S. v. Ramos, U.S. v. Ronald Evans U.S. v. Vargas, the most recent of which occurred in January 2008; and

WHEREAS, these conditions are in complete opposition with the University of Houston's Mission Statement, which states, "the University of Houston applies its expertise to the challenges facing the local, state, national, and international communities, and it establishes and nurtures relationships with community organizations, government agencies, public schools, and the private sector to enhance the educational, economic, and cultural vitality of Houston and Texas." and

WHEREAS, the University of Houston must pursue these goals in all contracts and hold the contractors accountable for compliance with it's Mission Statement; and

WHEREAS, a current national campaign being waged by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) and Student Farmworker Alliance (SFA) is requesting that corporations who purchase tomatoes from

Florida, including Aramark, negotiate a minimum 1¢ increase for every pound of tomatoes purchased to be passed on directly as a wage increase for tomato pickers; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of farmworker representation has proven ineffective in addressing the aforementioned issues; and

WHEREAS, the CIW and SFA campaign is requesting that corporations like Aramark be involved in the process of implementing this pay increase to assure that it is done fairly; and

WHEREAS, the CIW represents the interest of Florida's tomato pickers and has negotiated successfully with Subway, Burger King, McDonalds, Whole Foods, Taco Bell, as well as the entirety of Yum Foods, and Bon Appetit, as well as the entirety of the Compass Group, to improve wages and working conditions in these companies' tomato supply chains; then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Houston's Student Government Association (UH SGA) *urges* the Aramark Corporation, as the University of Houston's foodservice contractor, to meet with the CIW to negotiate an agreement that directly improves Florida tomato pickers' wages by 1¢ per pound of tomatoes picked; and, together with the CIW, implement an enforceable, human rights-based Code of Conduct for its tomato supply chain; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UH SGA *urges* the Aramark Corporation to institute this policy at all Aramark managed University of Houston System properties to which it provides food service; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UH SGA *urges* the UH administration to formally request, via all available media outlets, that Aramark reach an agreement with the CIW; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UH SGA *urges* the UH administration, once Aramark has instituted this policy, to notify the student body via all available media outlets available to the University; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Government Association *requests* that any agreement made in the future regarding the "penny per pound" agreement be done in co-operation with CIW or other farm worker representation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Student Government Association *requests*, as is just, proper, and necessary, that the University of Houston ensures and enforces through their purchasing power fair labor practices in all dealings with all future food-service contractors.

Passed Unanimously by the Forty-Sixth Senate of the Student Government Association of the
University of Houston on February 24, 2010

Kyrie Ruiz, Speaker of the Senate

Date

Kenneth Fomunung, SGA President

Date