



Author(s):

Edith Adams, *USC GSG Senator for Dornsife College of Arts, Letters and Sciences*
Quinn Anex-Ries, *USC Graduate Student Government Director of Diversity and Equity Advocacy*
Trenton Stone, *USC Undergraduate Student Government President*

Sponsor(s):

GSG Executive Board 2019-2020
GSG SEN. Edith Adams
USG SEN. Emily Donahue
USG SEN. Sara Khoshniyati

Date:

October 21, 2019

Bill No.:

USG Senate SB139-8
GSG Senate N/A¹

Supporter(s):

USG Executive Cabinet 2019-2020
USG SEN. Hailey Robertson

IN SUPPORT OF CALFRESH AT USC CAMPUS EATERIES

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 29th GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE AND
139th UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,

WHEREAS, “Leading universities will be those that commit to fully embracing access and opportunity; that is, actively seeking out different voices, building a rich cadre of diverse students, and providing all learners with the resources, financial and otherwise, to succeed,”²

WHEREAS, convenient access to healthy and affordable food is not only a fundamental human right, but is intimately tied to other forms of social inequality and oppression,

¹ The Graduate Student Government Senate does not number bills.

² University of Southern California. (2018). “Reimagining Access and Opportunity.”
<http://strategic.usc.edu/leading-through-transformation/reimagining-access-and-opportunity/>

WHEREAS, communities of color and low-income communities, including students, are disproportionately affected by food insecurity and lack of access to food,³

WHEREAS, “On top of malnutrition and hunger, food insecurity has been associated with obesity, chronic diseases, stress, depression, and overall degraded physical and mental health,”⁴

WHEREAS, research on food insecurity has consistently demonstrated that it is known to adversely affect daily life, psychological health⁵, future life outcomes, academic performance, and degree completion for students across college campuses and for the community writ large.^{6,7} Therefore, efforts to combat food insecurity and increase access to food can help increase student productivity and success on campus,

WHEREAS, those most vulnerable within our communities - student veterans, first-generation students, graduate students, students with disabilities, student parents, students experiencing homelessness, students experiencing an unexpected crisis, and international students - are those most likely to struggle with food insecurity,⁸

WHEREAS, students across USC campuses exhibit a need for increased access to affordable food options. Since its creation in the Spring of 2018, the Trojan Food Pantry has had 6,111 total visits from 908 total visitors. Moreover, of the 466 USC student respondents from a GSG-administered needs assessment survey, 50% indicated that they don’t purchase food at on-campus eateries because the food is too expensive. Additionally, 74.7% of respondents agreed that access to food on campus impacts their emotional well-being, and 65.9% agreed that access to food on campus impacts their academic performance,⁹

³ Elsheikh, Elsadig, and Nadia Barhoum. "Structural racialization and food insecurity in the United States." *A Report to the UN Human Rights Committee on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*.

<https://haasinstitute.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/Structural%20Racialization%20%20%26%20Food%20Insecurity%20in%20the%20US-%28Final%29.pdf>

⁴ Caprara, Colin. (2019). “Food Insecurity in Western Los Angeles County.” *Neighborhood Data for Social Change*. <https://usc.data.socrata.com/stories/s/Food-Insecurity-in-Western-Los-Angeles-County/7xia-42jm/>

⁵ Raskind, Ilana G, Haardörfer, Regine, Berg, Carla J. Food insecurity, psychosocial health and academic performance among college and university students in Georgia, USA. *Public health nutrition*. 2019;22(3):476-485. doi:10.1017/S1368980018003439

⁶ Erica Phillips, Anne McDaniel & Alicia Croft (2018) Food Insecurity and Academic Disruption Among College Students, *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, 55:4, 353-372, DOI: [10.1080/19496591.2018.1470003](https://doi.org/10.1080/19496591.2018.1470003)

⁷ Clare L. Cady (2014) Food Insecurity as a Student Issue, *Journal of College and Character*, 15:4, 265-272, DOI: [10.1515/jcc-2014-0031](https://doi.org/10.1515/jcc-2014-0031)

⁸ Elsheikh, Elsadig, and Nadia Barhoum. "Structural racialization and food insecurity in the United States." *A Report to the UN Human Rights Committee on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*. [http://haasinstitute.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/Structural%20Racialization%20\(2013\):20-26](http://haasinstitute.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/Structural%20Racialization%20(2013):20-26).

⁹ USC Graduate Student Government HSC Concerns Committee (2019). Brief Report: USC Health Sciences Campus Food Accessibility.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1otp7B53g-GwpzAmz6WSptpdRMA1pWsuP/view?usp=sharing>

WHEREAS, in January of 2017, Assembly Bill 1747 Chapter 290 went into effect in the State of California requiring any qualifying campus eatery in a County that participates in CalFresh's Restaurant Meals Program (LA County is one such County) to become a CalFresh (California's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) authorized food vendor in order to better address the lack of food access for individuals who are elderly, disabled, or experiencing homelessness,¹⁰

WHEREAS, several universities - including Humboldt State University,¹¹ Oregon State University,¹² and University of California Berkeley¹³ - have instituted programs to make their campuses EBT-accessible through the acceptance of SNAP benefits at on-campus marketplaces,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that prepared food vendors and food markets on all USC campuses become CalFresh authorized vendors (see Appendix I). This provides USC with the unique opportunity to join a small group of innovative universities as a leader in its commitment to moral responsibility and diversity at all levels of the institution while increasing the revenue of campus eateries,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USC institute a CalFresh matching program, which would offer dollar-for-dollar matching funds¹⁴ for customer's federal nutrition assistance benefits, in order to further increase access to food on campus (see Appendix I),

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that within two weeks of being passed by both the Graduate Student Government Senate (GSG)¹⁵, Undergraduate Student Government Senate, and signed by the President of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG)¹⁶, Trenton Stone, this resolution be delivered by GSG President Skye Parral and USG Secretary Jill Lin to the following individuals:

¹⁰ State of California - Health and Human Services Agency Department of Social Services (2016). "CalFresh Implementation of AB 1747: Restaurant Meals Program, CalFresh Outreach and the Emergency Food Assistance Program Fund." <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/EntRes/getinfo/acl/2016/16-112.pdf>

¹¹ Humboldt State University. (2016). "HSU Expands Food Access with SNAP Benefits."

<http://now.humboldt.edu/news/hsu-expands-food-access-through-snap-benefits/>

¹² Oregon State University. (2016). "OSU participation in SNAP to help improve student food access."

<https://today.oregonstate.edu/archives/2016/jan/osu-participation-snap-help-improve-student-food-access>

¹³ Berkeley News. (2018). "Got CalFresh? Bear Market Welcomes You."

<https://news.berkeley.edu/2018/02/02/got-cal-fresh-bear-market-welcomes-you/>

¹⁴ See, for example, <https://marketmatch.org>

¹⁵ Note: The Constitution of the Graduate Student Government allows the Senate to pass resolutions and does not require Presidential approval.

¹⁶ Note: The Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government allows the Senate to vote on resolutions but requires Presidential approval, unless overridden by a 2/3 vote by the Senate.

Dr. Carol L. Folt, President
Dr. Charles F. Zukoski, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Winston B. Crisp, Vice President for Student Affairs
David Wright, Senior Vice President for Administration
Dan Stimmler, Vice President for Auxiliary Services
Rebecca Lonergan, Academic Senate President and Professor of Lawyering Skills, and
Associate Director of Legal Writing and Advocacy Program
Erika Chesley, Staff Assembly President and Auxiliary Services Associate Director of
Engagement and Communications
Naddia Palacios, Senior Director of Student Equity and Inclusion Programs
Jeffrey Cho, Undergraduate Student Government Chief Diversity Officer.

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Trenton V. Stone
Student Body President
USC Undergraduate Student Government

Date: 12/3/2019

Attachment: Appendix I - Resolution Implementation Guidance

Official Use Only

Date of GSG Senate Vote: 10/22/19 **Date of USG Senate Vote:** 11/19/19

GSG Senate Vote Count: Aye Nay Abstain

USG Senate Vote Count: Aye 12 Nay 0 Abstain 0

Legislation Status: Passed x Failed Other

Date of Delivery to Listed Recipients:

Appendix I - Resolution Implementation Guidance

The following outlines recommendations for the implementation of the proposed resolution.

1. Create a Food Access Working Group

To ensure thoughtful implementation of the above resolution, we recommend that the Senior Vice President of Administration instruct the Vice President of Auxiliary Services to create a Food Access Working Group. The Working Group should include representatives from Graduate and Undergraduate Student Government, campus food retailers, and USC staff with direct oversight of campus dining and program financing.

2. Designate pilot sites

Within its first month, we recommend that the Working Group select three food retail sites on all USC campuses to pilot implementation of a food access program. These retailers should be selected based on their fidelity to SNAP retailer requirements, which dictate that an eligible store must have 3 stocking units of 3 different varieties for each staple food category (vegetables or fruits, dairy products, meat, poultry, or fish, breads or cereals) on a continuous basis.¹⁷ We recommend that Seeds Marketplace (TCC) on the UPC campus and the Soto Cart (SSB) on the HSC campus be considered as sites for this pilot. We further recommend that the Working Group explore the possibility of the creation of a new food retail location on the HSC campus in order to address the lack of food access on the HSC campus as a whole.

3. Pursue SNAP retailer certification at pilot sites

At the direction of the Working Group, all three pilot sites should begin the process of applying for SNAP vendor certification. Resource guides compiled by California State University provide valuable directions for eateries on academic campuses.¹⁸ In the event that a pilot site is rejected in this process, we recommend that alternative sites be identified as applicants.

4. Direct creation of USC CalFresh matching program

In addition to pursuing certification as a SNAP retailer, we recommend that the Working Group oversee and direct the creation of a USC CalFresh matching program. SNAP matching programs are proven to increase access to healthier food options for individuals and households with limited income by stretching the impact of every Federal nutrition assistance dollar they receive.

¹⁷ USDA Food and Nutrition Service. (2016). "Store Eligibility Requirements."

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer/eligible>

¹⁸ California State University. "Tips for Establishing CalFresh EBT on Your College Campus."

<https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Documents/TIPS-for-Establishing-EBT-at-your-College-2019.pdf>

Under a USC matching program, students enrolled in CalFresh who make purchases at a pilot site would receive a dollar-for-dollar match on their purchase.

5. *Define performance metrics*

We further recommend that the Working Group establish a set of performance metrics for this pilot to measure the number of purchases made by CalFresh participants at campus eateries, impacts to pilot site revenue, and program participant wellbeing measured through an administered survey.

6. *Scale program*

We further recommend that the Working Group evaluate the performance metrics of pilot sites after six months of implementation and scale the program to additional locations as deemed appropriate. We additionally recommend that the Working Group consult with Student Affairs and the Trojan Food Pantry in order to advertise and connect students to the CalFresh program.