



Student Government for Northern Michigan University

Associated Students of Northern Michigan University
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A resolution on food insecurities amongst college students

Presented on: September 27, 2016

Adopted on: October 11, 2016

Sponsor: Chair of Student Affairs Committee Connor Loftus

Co-sponsor(s): Dean of Students Chris Greer, Vice President of ASNMU Xavier Pete-Dye, Director of External Affairs Committee Taylor Preul, Off Campus Representative Sarah Head, Quad 1 Representative Tory Casal

Whereas, student debt averages \$25,550 for graduates<sup>i</sup> and has led to financially concerned students on college campuses nationwide who worry about limiting future debt while struggling to pay out of pocket to fund their education.

Whereas, many colleges and universities have found large numbers of financially strained students who are considered food insecure due to financial transactions that take priority over purchasing food. Michigan Technological University conducted a student survey and found 26% of students on campus were considered food insecure.

Noting, food insecurity is defined as a condition when persons do not have adequate resources to feed themselves, either nutritiously, or at all.<sup>ii</sup>

Whereas, support on Northern Michigan University's campus for food insecure individuals is essential so that students have the ability to focus on their education without having the added stress of worrying about their next meal.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Associated Students of Northern Michigan University, for the betterment of the students it serves, that the Associated Students of Northern Michigan University formally advocates for helping students, staff and faculty who are food insecure on Northern Michigan University's campus.

Be It Resolved, the Associated Students of Northern Michigan University recommend the formation of a working university committee in conjunction with the Dean of Students Office to investigate food insecurity on Northern Michigan University's campus.

Be It Further Resolved, the Associated Students of Northern Michigan University recommend the working university committee to use its investigation results to appropriately implement a Food Access Network. A copy of this resolution will be sent to Northern Michigan University Board of Trustees, the University President, the Dean of Students, and other groups that it may concern.

Tristan Ruiz (handwritten signature)

Tristan Ruiz, President

Jeulani Gahiji (handwritten signature)

Jeulani Gahiji, Chair of Assembly

<sup>i</sup> The Institute for College Access & Success. 2014. Quick Facts about Student Debt. <http://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub\_files/Debt\_Facts\_and\_Sources.pdf> Viewed 10/1/16

<sup>ii</sup> United States Department of Agriculture. 2016. Definitions of food security. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx#.UpOpRXdjuSo> Viewed 10/1/16