

A RESOLUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KENTUCKY, REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM TO SECURE FOOD FOR STUDENTS WHO MAY OTHERWISE NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THESE MEALS

WHEREAS: Nationally, 1 in 5 students regularly skip meals and 1 in 3 students go hungry, as reported by Swipe Out Hunger. In comparison, Northern Kentucky University's Office of Inclusive Excellence recorded that in the year 2015, 9.5% of student self-reported being hungry at least once in the past week and thus weren't able to purchase food. The Office of Inclusive Excellence also recorded that 30.7% of students reported struggling to pay monthly bills, and

WHEREAS: Northern Kentucky University's student body, as reported on their website, is composed of just under 40% first-generation college students. This student demographic is the most likely across the country to suffer from food insecurity, according to Swipe Out Hunger, and

WHEREAS: Swipe Out Hunger reports, that over 15% of college campuses have students that end the term with unredeemed meal passes which are paid for at the beginning of the semester as a meal plan, and

WHEREAS: The food bank pantry of NKU, FUEL NKU, served 441 unique clients and received 1,461 total client visits in the 2016-2017 academic year. Additionally, FUEL NKU saw 134 unique clients and 231 total client visits in only 5 weeks of the Fall 2017 semester, and

WHEREAS: Swipe Out Hunger is a nationwide program designed to combat food insecurity on college campuses. This program is designed to work in conjunction with on campus food banks/food pantries by allowing students with meal plans to donate their unused meal swipes back to the University for struggling students to use, and

WHEREAS: A meal swipe donation program, similar to Swipe Out Hunger, would be a flexible program where the logistics of its installation on NKU's campus could be changed to fit the needs of the student body, as well as the needs of the dining services on campus, and

WHEREAS: Texas State University's Student Government Association has partnered with their dining services provider, Chartwells, to establish a plan to combat student hunger and food insecurity. This plan turns donated meal swipes into a \$0.50 donation per meal swipe left over. The plan caps out at \$5,000 (10,000 swipes) to the on-campus food pantry, and

WHEREAS: A meal swipe donation program on Northern Kentucky University's Campus could be orchestrated with Chartwells, as a part of our food service contract being renewed, and

WHEREAS: Andy Meeks, Director of Business Operations and Auxiliary Services, has expressed his willingness to discuss future collaboration with Chartwells services, and

WHEREAS: FUEL NKU coordinator and founder, Dr. Jessica Taylor, said that incorporating a similar program to Swipe Out Hunger at NKU “has the potential to truly impact our campus”, and

WHEREAS: FUEL NKU’s Practicum Student, Jullia Stephenson believes that a meal donation program would make a huge impact on students who commute and live on campus by relieving the stress of worrying where their next meal will come from. In addition, she believes this would be very successful on our campus and FUEL would be happy to work on this project, and

WHEREAS: Northern Kentucky University’s website states that the University is dedicated to the development and wellbeing of their students, the promise of putting students first and upholding inclusivity as a core value, and

WHEREAS: Swipe Out Hunger reported that 48% of the students they serve nationally are first generation students, which could aid a large portion of our student body, considering how many are first-generation students, and

WHEREAS: 52% of students that Swipe Out Hunger serves nationally reported that they were able to improve their grades because of the program, and that 64% of students reported that Swipe Out Hunger was a factor in keeping them enrolled at school. Students at Northern Kentucky University should be able to make school their top priority instead of worrying about when they will be able to eat next. Instituting this program on campus would increase the academic success and retention rate, and

WHEREAS: 79% of students Swipe Out Hunger served nationally said that the program made them feel as though their university was inclusive and supportive of the student body. A program like Swipe Out Hunger has the potential to impact students’ lives and connect them to campus, and a campus community invested in their well-being.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, ON THIS FIRST DAY OF APRIL 2019 THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY REQUESTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM TO SECURE FOOD FOR STUDENTS WHO MAY OTHERWISE NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THESE MEALS

Signed: _____

Hannah Maria Edelen, President

Attest: _____

Brynn Cahal, Senator