



MEMORANDUM

November 15, 2017

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

From: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Food Insecurity Task Force

Action Requested

The proposed resolution establishes a task force to study food insecurity on college campuses and recommend changes and best practices to address and alleviate this serious issue.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the State University of New York is the nation's largest comprehensive institution of higher education with a diverse student population of varied economic means; and

Whereas although the United States is the richest nation in the world, many SUNY students and their families experience food insecurity, which can include lack of financial means to access food in general, make healthy food choices, or to obtain culturally or religiously appropriate food; and

Whereas food insecurity may limit the ability of students to access higher education; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Chancellor, or designee, shall empanel a food insecurity task force ("Task Force") comprised of a broad spectrum of interested constituencies, including students, staff, faculty, corporate food service providers and community and philanthropic organizations, which shall be

charged with studying the issue of food insecurity on college campuses and recommending necessary changes and best practices to alleviate this serious issue; and, be it further

Resolved that the Task Force shall prepare a preliminary and final report for presentation to the Student Life Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Background

Food insecurity is a serious issue on college campus. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as “the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways”. A recent study by Inside Higher Ed reports that 25% of college students are hungry. Campuses have responded to the problem of food insecurity by establishing food pantries, community gardens, emergency food vouchers, dining center meal donations and other programs. While these campus-specific programs are making important strides in the fight against food insecurity, a more comprehensive system-wide analysis is needed to address the issue to ensure that the all students may attend college free from food insecurity.