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Student Food Bank

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Senate Executive Committee Request for Information

Student Food Bank

Submitted by: Lisa Abbott

1/17/2020

Question(s):

1. Do we have a food bank for students on campus? If not how can we get one set up? It appears there is or was one on the Armstrong campus. Is it still in operation? Are there partnerships with local retailers or restaurants we could set up??

Rationale:

We have students who are living with income realities that make purchasing groceries a privilege. Many of them cannot qualify for assistance with the local food bank because they are listed as dependents even though they may not be receiving financial support from their families or the support is not enough to make ends meet. Students living in this kind of stress are not going to do well in classes and are at risk for dropping out. I am not sure if the senate is the place for this issue, but it feels important to start the conversation.

Some facts about campus food pantries: There are more than 300 food pantries on college campuses, according to Clare Cady of the College and University Food Bank Alliance*. CUFBA began in 2011 with just 15 campuses registered. It now has 641. Jul 31, 2018

According to data from the College and University Food Bank Alliance (CUFA), 30 percent of college students are food insecure. College meal plans for students are often too expensive for low-income students. Dec 2, 2019 Attached is a list of resources and articles on campus food banks.

Response:

SEC Response: Approval of RFI.

Response from Dr. Mark Whitesel, Interim AVP and Dean of Student Services

Thank you for this RFI. See below for information for Statesboro and Armstrong locations.

These should be considered food pantries

Armstrong - The Captain's Cupboard has been in place for several years and is supported through a generous gift from an anonymous alumni. Their gift supports purchasing needed food items or covering operational costs for The Captain's Cupboard. Faculty, staff and students can put in a request through the Dean of Students Office to request support through The Captain's Cupboard. The donor specifies this resource is for Armstrong faculty, staff and students. So, anything purchased with those funds must be used by only those specific groups. We also have connections to the Second Harvest Food Bank, donations from SGA, other food drives, and some support each year with a drive put on through the Alumni Association.

Statesboro - We have had a committee under the Dean of Students Office this fall working toward opening a food pantry on the Statesboro campus. I am pleased to share we have initially setup an internal resource in the Dean of Students Office for an emergency pantry and we will be rolling that out to campus in March. The initial support for this pantry has come through Auxiliary Services and the Department of Parking and Transportation with a canned food drive from late in the fall term.

Hinesville - We have staff and students who will take food from the Armstrong campus to the Liberty campus on an as needed basis.

All partnerships and outside connections have been explored. This is also an ongoing process as fundraising opportunities and new establishments (i.e. not for profits, business, etc.) are somewhat fluid and ever-changing.