

AS Food Pantry Funding Request

Proposed motion: Approve \$5,100 for three years, ending in FY 2020, to support the efforts in installing a food pantry in the VU out of FXXRES (Discretionary Grant Reserves)

Sponsors: Annie Gordon and Julia Rutledge

Person of Contact: Annie Gordon, Julia Rutledge, Christian Urcia

Date: February 5, 2018

Attached Document:

Food Pantry Implementation Plan: <https://tinurl.com/foodpantrywwu>

Background and Context: A group of students are working on establishing a food pantry on campus. They approached University Residences asking for support, and the Residence Hall Association has given them \$2,000 and they put in a proposal to the Sustainable Action Fund for \$4,066. Although that proposal has not gone through, Christian Urcia is working on the Birnam Wood location. This funding will go towards the location in the Viking Union.

Summary of Proposal and Fiscal Impacts

\$5,100 to come out of FXXRES to be used in partnership with funding from RHA (and possibly SAF) to fund a 3 year pilot program. The \$5,100 will be split up over the course of 3 years, with \$1,700 to be used each year for the purchase of storage equipment and food items. (See attached document for specific logistical details regarding space and employees.) In addition to the space in Birnam Wood, there will be a location in the Viking Union that will not be run as a “don’t ask, don’t tell” kind of pantry. This means that students can come and grab whatever they need off of the shelves, so it does not need to be monitored in the same way as the Birnam Wood location. Short term, there is the possibility of the food pantry being operationalized into the SIRC’s budget, with a SIRC work study and maybe an ESP work study overseeing the pantry. For the rest of the 2018 school year, it will be overseen by ROP Coordinator Leti Romo and ROP work studies.

Long term, the AS VP for Student Life (soon to be AS VP for Student Services) might be charged with operationalizing and overseeing the Viking Union location (assuming the position splits, current VP for Student Life believes this will fit nicely into the new job description). After the Multi-Cultural Center is complete, Leti Romo has suggested moving the food pantry to be nearby the MCC kitchen.

Rationale

Food insecurity is something that a large percentage of our students face. In response to this, several students wrote up a plan for a food pantry as a project for a class. They started the process and have asked us, the Associated Students, as well as the Residence Hall Association to continue the process. They are planning on partnering with local grocery stores and farms to get excess food, or surplus from Aramark. As the Associated Students, increasing food security is another way that we can support students.

Christian Urcia, Apartment Coordinator for Birnam Wood, was aware that many of his residents had chosen Birnam Wood for financial reasons, and wanted to know more about the food insecurity his community might be facing. 461 Birnam Wood residents were targeted to

complete a “needs-survey” on May 26, 2017. 141 residents responded to this survey (31%). This of course is not inclusive of the whole campus, but feels like relevant data as it tells us that there are communities on our campus facing food insecurity.