

STUDENTS FOR A SELF-OPERATED DINING SYSTEM
website: <https://shredthecontract.wixsite.com/studentsforselfop>

We are a group of students working towards the goal of getting Aramark off our campus and transitioning to a self-operated dining system. Many schools around the U.S., including the University of Washington to UC Santa Cruz and many more, have successfully made the switch from contracting their dining services with a large corporation to running their dining system independently. We hope that WWU will join the list of schools who have already gone self-op.

What is Shred the Contract (STC)?

Shred the Contract is a campaign by “Students for a Self-Operated Dining System” (or STC), a club at WWU. WWU is currently contracted with Aramark to run all of our dining services on campus, and our contract with this corporation ends in 2021. That presents an opening, and opportunity, for us to end our relationship with Aramark and instead begin a self-operated dining system.

What is a self-operated dining system?

A self-operated dining system is a system run entirely by the university, rather than with a third party corporation—such as Aramark—in which our university outsources dining responsibility. Self-operated systems can save money in the long run and allow for far more transparency around the food being served on campus. STC feels that going self-operated is the next step for Western in becoming a school that champions food justice and supports student voices.

What’s wrong with Aramark - why don’t we just renew our contract with them?

Aramark is one of the largest food service providers in the country, making billions of dollars each year. This corporation not only serves schools like Western, but other institutions including hospitals and prisons as well. Aramark (on campus and around the world) is tied to many concerning practices, including unsafe/unfair labor conditions, environmentally unsustainable farming, unhealthy food and animal abuse in their sourcing of animal products. For these reasons, STC feels that Aramark’s practices do not align with Western’s mission statement and values. And thus, it is not right that we renew our contract with Aramark or the numerous other food providers who have similar issues.

What is the timeline of this project?

After a “Request for Proposals” (RFP), a dining committee will form in February of 2020 to assess the submitted dining contract bids. Before that happens, we will have begun, or will begin, to work with our administration, the AS Board, WWU Clubs, local business owners and similar campaigns internationally, in the hopes of making Western self-op.

How can the Student Senate help?

Today we are here to state our case and answer any questions. In the near-future, we hope to work with members of the senate to pass a collaborative resolution that supports the mission of the STC campaign. In the future, we may want to work with the Board to get a referendum on the ballot. Most importantly, we would like help getting student representation on the 2020 dining committee. We really appreciate the work already being done by current senate members who support the STC campaign in conversations with administration, who’ve kept us up-to-date on changing circumstances, and who’ve helped organize this meeting today.

Thank you!