

## **A RESOLUTION REGARDING FUTURE DINING OPERATIONS AT WWU**

### **May 2020**

Western Washington University has been signed onto a 10-year contract with the Aramark Corporation since September 1, 2011. This contract places all dining, large-expenditure catering, supply chain management and other related activity for WWU's dining system under the sole operation of Aramark.

**WHEREAS**, the ASWWU Board of Directors is one of the few recognized voices for all students of the university; and

**WHEREAS**, WWU administration signed on to the Real Food Campus Commitment in 2016, stating that "We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in our communities and throughout society by modeling ways to support ecologically sustainable, humane, and socially equitable food systems"<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2018-2025 WWU Strategic Plan stipulates a, "Commitment to student success, critical thought, creativity, and sustainability" as well as a pursuit of "...justice and equity in its policies, practices, and impacts."<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, our campaign recognizes the work WWU administration has put into improving the current dining system or implementing new programs such as Swipe Out Hunger; and

**WHEREAS**, Aramark is contracted with over 500 jails and prisons around the U.S. and has a track record of serving food that is unhealthy and unsafe, including food containing maggots and rocks<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, WWU's dining union faced pushback and lack of support from Aramark when dining workers moved to unionize in 2012<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Shred the Contract campaign has gathered testimony from many student workers who experience mistreatment under Aramark management<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Aramark supports Big Food corporations through a system of kickbacks, which block out Real Food producers and uphold corporations that exploit workers, communities, and the earth<sup>6</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> See [WWU Real Food Campus Commitment](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://president.wwu.edu/mission-statement-and-strategic-plan>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/prison-strike-protest-aramark>

<sup>4</sup> <https://asvuwwu.blob.core.windows.net/media/wp/2012/06/4-26-12.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://shredthecontract.wixsite.com/studentsforselfop/testimonials>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEdPb3FVd5E>

**WHEREAS**, the national Real Meals Campaign, led by both student leaders and sustainable food producers, has exposed a systematic practice of farmer, worker, and environmental exploitation by the three largest American food service providers, Aramark, Compass Group, and Sodexo<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fall 2017 Feeding Western survey found that over half of WWU students are facing food insecurity, illustrating that WWU's current food system is not affordable or nourishing for many students<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, WWU has a commitment stated in the Food System's Working Group (FSWG)'s Multi-Year Action Plan to working with religious and cultural student groups to ensure that food is culturally appropriate and not appropriative<sup>9</sup>; now, therefore,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**THAT**, the 2019-2020 ASWWU Board of Directors formally endorses the Shred the Contract Campaign and demands that WWU administration commit to discontinuing WWU's relationship with Aramark upon the expiration of the current contract in 2021.

**THAT**, the 2019-2020 ASWWU Board of Directors commits to collaborating alongside student workers, clubs, RHA, and Western administration for the entire duration of the self-operated dining system—a system which will be run entirely by the university, rather than paying a third party company to do this work.

**THAT**, the 2019-2020 ASWWU Board of Directors commits to doing everything in their power to ensure that this self-operated dining system preserves the current dining union, rehires all current student and full time staff, honoring pay rate and seniority, with the exception of those staff who were brought in by Aramark.

**THAT**, that copies of this resolution be distributed via email to President Sabah Randhawa, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Melynda Huskey, Director of University Residences Leonard Jones, Associate Director of University Residences Kurt Willis, the WWU Board of Trustees, and the WWU student body.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.realmealscampaign.org/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/wp.wvu.edu/dist/6/4099/files/2018/01/Proposal-Final-FEEDING-WESTERN.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vJ2y\\_NvpSqScGe00HKcmjpaOWJO0QACffIU6dl8nq38/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vJ2y_NvpSqScGe00HKcmjpaOWJO0QACffIU6dl8nq38/edit?usp=sharing)