

A Resolution of the

Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate

“ASWWU Student Senate Support of Shred the Contract”

WHEREAS, Western Washington University informed its students that they intend to extend their 10-year contract with the Aramark Corporation (due to expire on September 1, 2021) through September of 2023. 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; [1] and

WHEREAS, the ASWWU Student Senate and Executive Board are some of the very few recognized voices for all students of the university; and

WHEREAS, the ASWWU Student Senate and Executive Board passed a resolution named “Future of Dining Operations at WWU” in Spring of 2019 in support of the Shred the Contract campaign; [2] and

WHEREAS, despite reaching out multiple times in the past several months, Shred the Contract, the ASWWU Executive Board, ASWWU Student Senate, and the students of WWU were not made aware by WWU administration of their decision to extend the contract with the Aramark Corporation until the morning of the Western Today statement to the general student body; [1] and

WHEREAS, Black Student Organizations’ (BSO) demand number twelve states a demand to, “Stand by Shred the Contract and end the contract with Aramark,” and to, “establish a Self-Operated dining system;” [3] and

WHEREAS, Black Student Organizations’ (BSO) demand number seventeen states a demand for, “Better communication with administration and staff that does not only fall on one student” and that, “these communications should not be initiated by students every time;” [3] 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;” [4] and

WHEREAS, the stated vision in the Dining Services section of the 2017 WWU Sustainability Action Plan is to provide, “meals that... support socially- and economically-just and ecologically-responsible food production and delivery systems;” [5] and

WHEREAS, Although the reasoning behind extending the contract with the Aramark Corporation surrounded cost, the Dining Services section of the 2017 WWU Sustainability Action Plan clearly states that, “Social equity not only encompasses student costs, but also addresses the social and economic impacts of our purchasing choices on the surrounding local and regional community;” [5] 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; [6] 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; [7] 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;" [8] and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE:

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU Student Senate further echoes and reaffirms the "Future of Dining Operations" resolution passed by the 2019-20 ASWWU Student Senate and Executive Board.

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU Student Senate 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, if the WWU administration cannot end its extension of the current contract through 2023, the 2020-21 ASWWU Student Senate demands that the WWU administration commits to meeting regularly with ASWWU leadership and Shred the Contract to collaborate on a tangible plan for transitioning to a self-operating dining system - which will be run entirely by the university, rather than a third party - by 2023.

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU Student Senate demands that the WWU administration creates more transparent and consistent communication with Shred the Contract, the ASWWU leadership, and WWU students as well as ensuring that communicating does not always fall upon the students and that meetings are not at inaccessible times.

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU Student Senate demands that the WWU administration commit 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 the Aramark Corporation.

THAT, the 2020-21 ASWWU Student Senate demands that the WWU administration fulfils BSO demands twelve and seventeen [3]. In addition, the 2020-21 ASWWU Student Senate demands that the WWU administration honors the Real Food Campus Commitment, Sustainability Action Plan, and 2018-25 Mission & Strategic Plan.

THAT, that copies of this resolution and the “Future Dining Operations at WWU” 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, WWU Faculty Senate, and the general WWU student body.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate at their regular meeting on (Insert Date), 2020.

Sargun Handa

Chair, ASWWU Student Senate

Appendix

[1]: <https://westerntoday.wwu.edu/news/western-extends-aramark-contract-through-2023#:~:text=Since%20March%2C%20the%20COVID%2D19,every%20aspect%20of%20university%20life.&text=Our%20current%20contract%20with%20Aramark%20expires%20in%20September%20of%202021>.

[2]: See Future of Dining Operations at WWU

[3]: https://asvuwwu.blob.core.windows.net/media/documents/BSO_DEMANDS.pdf

[4]: See WWU Real Food Campus Commitment

[5]: See 2017 WWU Sustainability Action Plan

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

[7]: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/prison-strike-protest-aramark>

[8]: <https://president.wwu.edu/mission-statement-and-strategic-plan>