



Associated Students of
Western Washington University
Viking Union 530 – MS 9106
516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
360-650-4648
as.wwu.edu

**A Resolution of the
Associated Students of Western Washington University
“ASWWU’s 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 in September 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 2020 in support of the Shred the Contract campaign; [2] and

WHEREAS, Despite reaching out multiple times in the past several months, Shred the Contract and the WWU students were not informed by the WWU administration of their *final* decision to extend the contract with the Aramark Corporation until the Western Today statement to the general student body. In addition, the ASWWU leaders who had been communicating with WWU administration were not made aware until the morning of the Western Today statement to the student body; [1] and

WHEREAS, Many student groups and petitions have expressed the need to end the contract with the Aramark Corporation. Included in these groups are Shred the Contract (Students for a Self-Operated Dining System), Black Student Organizations and their petition that received over 3,500 signatures, and Students for Sustainable Food and their petition that received over 1,800 signatures; [3][4] 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;” [5] 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;” [6] 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;” [6] and



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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; [7] 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; [8] 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;” [9] and

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

THAT, the ASWWU further echoes and reaffirms the “Future of Dining Operations at WWU” resolution passed by the 2019-20 ASWWU Student Senate and Executive Board.

THAT, the ASWWU formally endorses the Shred the Contract Campaign and demands that WWU administration and ourselves, the ASWWU leadership, commit to discontinuing WWU’s relationship with the Aramark Corporation upon the expiration of the contract in 2021.

THAT, the ASWWU requests that the WWU Board of Trustees allows Shred the Contract members to attend their December 11th meeting to give the organization a platform to discuss their concerns with the WWU administration’s decision to extend the contract.

THAT, if the WWU administration cannot end its extension of the current contract through 2023, the ASWWU demands that the WWU administration commits to meeting regularly with Shred the Contract, first and foremost, as well as ASWWU leadership 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 – in partnership with the AS Outback Farm (as the WWU administration committed to in the Sustainability Action Plan) and local food producers by 2023; and

THAT, the ASWWU demands that the WWU administration creates more transparent and consistent communication with Shred the Contract, ASWWU leadership, and WWU students that does not occur the morning of or even the week of a decision being made; and

THAT, the ASWWU demands that the WWU administration commit to doing everything in their power, if possible, 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 ASWWU demands that the WWU administration honors the Real Food Campus Commitment, Sustainability Action Plan, and 2018-25 Mission & Strategic Plan. In addition, the



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ASWWU demands that the WWU administration reflects upon the petitions and actively listens to the demands of thousands of WWU students to end this contract.

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 and Interim Executive Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance Melynda Huskey, Director of University Residences Leonard Jones, Associate Director of University Residences Kurt Willis, the WWU Board of Trustees, and the general WWU student body.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Associated Students of Western Washington University Executive Board at their special meeting on November 30th, 2020.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate via electronic vote on November 23rd, 2020.

ATTEST:

Abdul Malik Ford
Chair, ASWWU Executive Board

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]: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b8pej8EE_cOn3S7eaqRjL3aEQ6YL8B1Q/view?usp=sharing

[3]: <https://www.change.org/p/western-washington-university-demand-wwu-support-black-students>

[4]: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/shredthecontract>

[5]:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByDvp1xcyf9jNkI3MUlxLXpjVnFwaWnDb0tKVnRaSlBXUFg0/view>



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[6]: <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/wp.wwu.edu/dist/6/4099/files/2019/02/Sustainability-Action-Plan-2017-FINAL.update02.06.2019-179c9tc.pdf>

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

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

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