To: Whom it may concern

From: Brian McDonald, President, Residence Hall Association

Howdy,

Enclosed is legislation that has recently passed in the Residence Hall Association (RHA). This includes the following:

- SB: 39-02: The Friendlier Options for Obligatory Dining (FOOD) Bill

Upon passage, these bills became the official opinion of 7,000+ students who live on campus and will be advocated for by RHA.

If you have any questions about the enclosed legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@rha.tamu.edu.

Thank you,

Brian McDonald
RHA President
The Residence Hall Association
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Riley John, Wells Hall Council President
Mason Lanham, T.O. Walton Hall Council President
Miquel Duque, T.O. Walton Hall Resident
Jonathan G. Spencer, Gardens II Resident

Friendlier Options for Obligatory Dining (FOOD) Bill

"A bill requesting University Dining modify its existing implementation strategy for a mandatory meal plan."

Whereas(1): The Texas A&M University Residence Hall Association serves as the voice of all non-reg's who live on the campus of Texas A&M University; and,

Whereas(2): The Texas A&M University Residence Hall Association recognizes the importance of dining as a part of the on-campus experience, and;

Whereas(3): Prior to developing the current structure for the mandatory meal plan University Dining and Residence Life conducted a signal joint focus group consisting of 19 students, and;

Whereas(4): At that focus group consensus was reached that a requirement of $1000 or more would be a far too expensive mandatory meal plan option, and;

Whereas(5): Tax is not currently included in meal plan price quotes, adding an extra 8.25% to the cost of all meal plan purchases, including the planned mandatory meal plan, and;

Whereas(6): Current rent rates are $2,627 per semester for the most expensive accommodations and $1,446 per semester for the least expensive accommodations on campus, and;
Whereas(7): The planned $1200 mandatory meal plan would increase rental rates by 50% to 90% for on campus residents, and;

Whereas(8): A $800 mandatory meal plan, the planned requirement for upperclassmen starting in 2015, would only increase rental rates by 33% to 60% for on campus residents, and;

Whereas(9): Forcing on campus residents to eat the vast majority of their meals on campus could potentially have an adverse effect on local College Station businesses, and;

Whereas(10): In September of 2010, a survey of students showed a 78% of opposition rate to the idea of any mandatory meal plan, and;

Whereas(11): In October of 2010, the Texas A&M Residence Hall Association and the Texas A&M Student Senate passed legislation requesting that the meal plan options be further discussed with the student body before a final decision was made, and;

Whereas(12): No official response was ever provided to the legislation.

Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(1): The on campus residents of Texas A&M University remain opposed to the implementation of a mandatory meal plan that targets any single group of students, and;

Let it be
Further
Enacted(2): The on campus residents of Texas A&M University remain disappointed in the rushed, hurried, and secretive manner in which this meal plan was prepared, and;

Let it be
Further
Enacted(3): The on campus residents of Texas A&M University are further disappointed that no concessions or modifications have been made to the plan since its primary introduction to the student body in September of 2010, and;

Let it be
Further
Enacted(4): The on campus residents of Texas A&M University request that tax be included in all pricing of mandatory meal plans, and;
Let it be Further Enacted(5): The on campus residents of Texas A&M University request that the minimum purchase level of the mandatory meal plan is lowered from $1200 to no more than 50% increase over the cost of the lowest student rent, and;

Let it be Further Enacted(6): The on campus residents of Texas A&M University request that while implementing a mandatory meal plan, that University Dining publish an annual report detailing where the money for the mandatory meal plan is going, and what tangible effects the students are seeing, and;

Let it be Further Enacted(7): University Dining offer a wider range of meal plan options for upper classmen and off campus students, such as at the $200, $400, and $600 level

Let it be Further Enacted(8): That within seven days of its ratification a copy of this legislation be forwarded to the following administrators:

- Tanner Wilson, Speaker of the Student Senate
- Jeffrey Pickering, Student Body President
- David Riddle, Executive Director, University Dining
- Chareny Rydl, Director, Residence Life
- Dr. David W. Parrott, Executive Vice President for Student Affairs
- Dr. Rodney P. McClendon, Vice President for Administration
- LtGen Joseph Weber, Vice President of Student Affairs
- Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, President of Texas A&M University
- The Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System