



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 64-48

The Student Senate
64th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Jonathan G. Spencer, Engineering
Omar Ghannoum, Engineering
Oliver Chen, Engineering
Katherine Gnadinger, University Apartments
Sean Barry, Southside
Fernando Sosa, Southside
Mariana Fernandez, Northside
Caroline Cyrier, Off Campus
Tyler Mandry, Engineering
Thomas McNutt, Student Services Chair
Brody Smith, Academic Affairs Chair
Luke Cowsar, Architecture
Natalie Schuck, Off Campus
Brian McDonald, President, Residence Hall Association
Riley John, President, Wells Hall Council
Mason Lanham, President, T.O. Walton Hall Council
Miguel Duque, Class of 2012
Vivian LoDuca, Class of 2011/2013
Tyler Moquin, Student Services Committee

Action Taken Passed
November 16, 2011

Certified By: Tanner Wilson
Tanner Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved: Jeff Ricker 112
Jeff Ricker 11-23-11
Student Body President

Friendlier Options for Obligatory Dining (FOOD) Bill

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



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Further Certified By: Tanner Wilson
Tanner Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

- Whereas(1):** The Texas A&M University Student Government Association serves as the voice of all students of Texas A&M University; and,
- Whereas(2):** The Texas A&M University Student Government Association believes in the importance of shared governance; and,
- Whereas(3):** The Texas A&M University Student Government Association recognizes the importance of dining as an organization to the welfare of the students; and,
- Whereas(4):** Prior to developing the current structure for the mandatory meal plan Dining Services and Residence Life conducted a single joint focus group consisting of 19 students; and,
- Whereas(5):** 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(6):** 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(7):** 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(8):** The planned \$1200 mandatory meal plan would increase rental rates by 50% to 90% for on campus residents; and,
- Whereas(9):** A \$800 mandatory meal plan, the planned requirement for upperclassmen living on campus starting in 2015, would only increase rental rates by 33% to 60% for on campus residents
- Whereas(10):** University Dining's stated purpose for raising the mandatory meal plan was to increase the profitability of the organization; and,
- Whereas(11):** University Dining is currently providing food to student organizations, such as the Texas A&M University Student Senate and Texas A&M Residence Hall Association at no cost; and,
- Whereas(12):** In September of 2010 a survey of students showed a 78% of opposition rate to the idea of any mandatory meal plan; and,



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Whereas(13): 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(14): No official response to this legislation was ever provided.

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(1): The students of Texas A&M University remain opposed the implementation of a mandatory meal plan that targets any single group of students; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted(2): The students 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 students 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 students 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 students of Texas A&M University request that the minimum purchase level of the mandatory meal plan is lowered from \$1200 to no more than a 50% over the cost of the students rent; and,

Let it be

Further

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



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Let it be

Further

Enacted(7): The students of Texas A&M request that University Dining offer a wider range of meal plan options for upper classmen and off campus students, such as \$200, \$400, and \$600 levels; and,

Let it be

Further

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

- 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