

A Resolution to Support the Signing and Implementation of the Real Food Campus Commitment

Sophie Chang (for herself, Mikayla Bodey, Caroline Gonzalez, and Andrew Jackson) introduced the following resolution to steering.

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Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas The Ohio State University has 30 dining locations across its Columbus campus, including three Traditions dining locations that offer all-you-care-to-eat options for students,¹ and

Whereas The Ohio State University dining workers orchestrate the remarkable feat of serving some 40,000 meals nearly every day, and

Whereas OSU is one of the largest institutional purchasers of food in the Midwest,² and

Whereas OSU has a self-operating dining system that coordinates food purchases from over 30 distributors,³ and

Whereas OSU procures meat, dairy, and some vegetables from OSU’s vast agricultural campus, and

Whereas the OSU food system leadership is a collaboration between Dining Services, the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, the Board of Trustees, and the upper administration of the University, and

Whereas The Ohio State University is a land-grant institution⁴ and was founded on the values of agriculture and investment in community,⁵ and

Whereas the Senior Director of Dining Services, Zia Ahmed, has stated that “production, preparation and operations related to food” should be done “as locally as possible and by the people whose primary motivation is the well-being of our students,”⁶ and

Whereas the “Strategic Vision” of the Ohio State Sustainability Goals includes the goal of utilizing internal and external stakeholders such as “students, staff, faculty, alumni/ae,

¹ <https://dining.osu.edu/locations/>

² <https://stars.aashe.org/institutions/the-ohio-state-university-oh/report/2016-01-22/OP/dining-services/OP-6/>

³ Ibid.

⁴ <https://www.osu.edu/academicplan/vision.php>

⁵ <https://news.osu.edu/history.html>

⁶ <http://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/kale-kale-the-gang’s-all-here-ohio-state-greenhouse-grows-produce-for-students>

42 companies, non-governmental organizations, agencies” to “serve in an advisory capacity for the
43 ongoing formulation, development, implementation, and assessment of goals, initiatives, and
44 outcomes,”⁷ and

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46 **Whereas** the “Strategic Vision” also includes the goal of conducting “research on our progress
47 by developing and/or adapting research methodology to review and assess operational goals, and
48 evaluate and publish the results with the aim of developing best practices and innovation for
49 sustainability measurement,”⁸ and

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51 **Whereas** the President and Provost’s Council on Sustainability has recently declared the goal of
52 “producing and purchasing 40% local and sustainable foods by 2025,”⁹ and

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54 **Whereas** despite these goals and the aforementioned “Strategic Vision,” the Ohio State
55 Sustainability Goals have not established clear, student-sanctioned criteria for what constitute
56 “local” and “sustainable” foods,¹⁰ and

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58 **Whereas** there is no transparency, measurability, or baseline measure for the process in
59 achieving this sustainability goal, and

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61 **Whereas** the Real Food Challenge is a nation-wide, student-led movement whose goal is to shift
62 \$1 billion of existing university food budgets away from industrial farms and junk food and
63 towards real food by the year 2020,¹¹ and

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65 **Whereas** the Real Food Challenge has a network of over 5,000 students at more than 350
66 schools throughout the United States,¹²

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68 **Whereas** Real Food OSU, formerly known as Local Matters Student Ambassadors, is part of
69 Real Food Challenge and has been working on the campaign for real food for the past two years,
70 and

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72 **Whereas** the campaign for real food entails the signing and implementation of the Real Food
73 Campus Commitment to direct 20% of University food purchases to the purchase of “real food,”
74 and

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76 **Whereas** “real food” is defined as local/community-based, fair, ecologically sound, and/or
77 humane,¹³ and

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79 **Whereas** the Real Food Campus Commitment is comprised of five key tenets,¹⁴ and

⁷ <https://www.osu.edu/initiatives/sustainability/>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ <http://www.realfoodchallenge.org/about-real-food-challenge>

¹² <http://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/a-critical-mass-for-real-food>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ <http://www.realfoodchallenge.org/sites/realfoodchallenge.drupalgardens.com/files/201310/RealFoodCampusCommitment.pdf>

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81 **Whereas** the Real Food Campus Commitment believes “colleges and universities must exercise
82 leadership in our communities and throughout society by modeling ways to support ecologically
83 sustainable, humane and socially equitable food systems,”¹⁵ and

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85 **Whereas** the Real Food Campus Commitment believes that investing in “the use of
86 local/regional, ecologically sustainable, humane and fair foods” can benefit old and new
87 students, and foster “university-community relations by supporting the livelihoods of family
88 farmers and food chain workers,”¹⁶ and

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90 **Whereas** the qualifications for local and community-based, fair, ecologically sound, and humane
91 foods are listed in the “Real Food Guide,”¹⁷ and

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93 **Whereas** “real food” would be measured by a research-developed, proven food systems
94 calculator¹⁸ that already exists to measure and track progress towards a given food systems goal,
95 and

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97 **Whereas** this calculator would be run and maintained by Ohio State students, and

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99 **Whereas** the Ohio State University is a research institution dedicated to engaging students in the
100 academic process, and

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102 **Whereas** the Real Food Campus Commitment is currently endorsed by the Community Alliance
103 for Global Justice, the Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive, Equal Exchange, the Fair
104 Food Network, Green America, the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, the
105 Northwest Agriculture Business Center, Red Tomato, Roots of Change, Sierra Student Coalition,
106 the Student/Farmworker Alliance, and UniteHERE!,¹⁹ and

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108 **Whereas** the Ohio Farmers Union, Slow Food Columbus, Ohio Environmental Council, North
109 Market Development Authority, Local Matters, the Humane Society of the United States
110 Agriculture Advisory Council for Ohio, Environment Ohio/Environment America, and Ohio Fair
111 Food also endorse the Real Food Campus Commitment, and

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113 **Whereas** local producers such as Snowville Creamery, Great River Organics, Sanfillipo
114 Produce, Marshy Meadows Farm, Fox Hollow Farm, Kossuth Street Garden, Yellowbird
115 Foodshed, Harris-Miller Farm, Red Roots Community Garden, and Bird’s Haven Farms also
116 endorse the Real Food Campus Commitment,²⁰ and

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¹⁵ <http://www.realfoodchallenge.org/sites/realfoodchallenge.drupalgardens.com/files/201310/RealFoodCampusCommitment.pdf>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ http://www.realfoodchallenge.org/sites/g/files/g809971/f/201403/Real%20Food%20Guide%20Version%201.0%20March%202014_0.pdf

¹⁸ <http://calculator.realfoodchallenge.org>

¹⁹ <http://www.realfoodchallenge.org/participating-schools#overlay-context=>

²⁰ <http://u.osu.edu/realfoodchallenge/2016/02/29/thank-you/>

118 **Whereas** the Real Food Campus Commitment is also endorsed by individuals such as Cornell
119 William Brooks, President and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of
120 Colored People, and Dr. Barbara Galantowicz of Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and
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122 **Whereas** Will Allen, community leader of Growing Power and author of the 2015-2016
123 Buckeye Book Community book²¹ at Ohio State, *The Good Food Revolution*, also endorses the
124 Real Food Campus Commitment and the mission of Real Food Challenge, and
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126 **Whereas** the Real Food Challenge has facilitated a pilot program between OSU Dining and
127 Great River Organics²², the largest cooperative of Ohio’s organic growers, and
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129 **Whereas** this pilot program has been implemented in partnership with Chef Lesa Holford,²³
130 Corporate Executive Chef at Ohio State since last spring, and
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132 **Whereas** the success of Great River Organics shows that local farmers can scale up their
133 production to meet the needs of our University, and
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135 **Whereas** the further success and increase in production by producers such as Great River
136 Organics requires a commitment from the Ohio State University, and
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138 **Whereas** The Ohio State University Dining Services has an annual budget of \$55 million,²⁴ and
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140 **Whereas** by signing and implementing the Real Food Campus Commitment OSU will be
141 purchasing at least 20% local and sustainable food by 2020, thus ensuring greater success in
142 meeting 40% local and sustainable food by 2025, and
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144 **Whereas** the criteria offered by Real Food Challenge illustrates an expanded vision of
145 sustainability, much like Ohio State’s Sustainability Goals, and
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147 **Whereas** signing and implementing the Real Food Campus Commitment would ensure
148 accountability, measurability, and transparency in our food system going forward, and
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150 **Whereas** signing and implementing the Real Food Campus Commitment is in direct alignment
151 with President Drake’s 2020 Vision, Discovery Themes of Health and Wellness, Energy and
152 Environment, and Food and Production Safety,²⁵ and his goal of alleviating food security, and
153
154 **Whereas** adopting the Real Food Campus Commitment would give student further options and
155 build bridges with the local community of producers, without alienating current corporate
156 partnerships and contracts, and

²¹ <https://fye.osu.edu/bbc.html>

²² <http://www.greatriverfarms.org>

²³ Chef Lesa Holford at the Spring into Real Food: Strengthening the Campus Food System through Campus Purchasing Conference on April 3, 2015 <http://senr.osu.edu/about-us/events/spring-real-food-strengthening-food-system-through-campus-purchasing>

²⁴ <http://thelantern.com/2014/02/ohio-state-dining-services-waste-minimizing-efforts-challenged/>

²⁵ <https://news.osu.edu/news/2015/08/28/ohio-state-university-trustees-approve-university-budget-and-construction-projects/>

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Whereas 60 institutions across the United States have signed and committed to implementing the Real Food Campus Commitment, including but not limited to the entire University of California and California State University systems, Northwestern University, and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst,²⁶ and

Whereas The University of Michigan also has a real food team working with the Real Food Challenge,²⁷ and

Whereas OSU signing the Real Food Campus Commitment would likely help produce a domino effect and encourage other universities to sign it as well, and


Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly recognizes the benefits of signing and implementing the Real Food Campus Commitment, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government encourages the administration to sign and implement the Real Food Campus Commitment, and

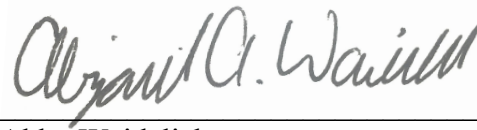
Let it Further Be Resolved that the USG does not support increasing the price of the meal plans in order to achieve the Real Food Campus Goals, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government encourages the administration to work with Real Food OSU in the entirety of the Real Food Campus Commitment process.

Floor Vote: PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION



Abby Grossman
President



Abby Waidelich
Vice President

Date Adopted: March 2, 2016

Date Terminated: _____

²⁶ <http://www.realfoodchallenge.org/participating-schools#overlay-context=>

²⁷ <http://www.umspf.com>