



## **RUSA Bill S20 - 07**

### **Authors:**

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**Sponsors:** Health and Wellness Committee, University Affairs Committee

### **Resolution to Urge Rutgers Administration to Achieve Zero Hunger**

*Whereas*, 14.3 million households in the United States were food insecure,<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, Less than half of all college students were completely food and housing secure,<sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, student hunger is a national issue in the United States with 36% of university students and 56% of community college students reported as food insecure; per the Wisconsin Hope Lab<sup>3</sup> and,

*Whereas*, a March 2018 study found that 36.9% of undergraduate students and 32.2% of graduate students reported low or very low food security at Rutgers University - New Brunswick and that food insecurity is associated with lower grade point averages (GPAs), a relationship that is particularly strong for undergraduates,<sup>4</sup> and,

*Whereas*, some Rutgers University - New Brunswick resources currently go to waste and university campus administrations have the infrastructure and resources to provide for the needs of all of its hungry and/or food insecure students; while ensuring resilience to student housing insecurity, and,

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.marketwatch.com/story/nearly-half-of-college-students-didnt-have-enough-money-for-food-last-year-2019-04-30>

<sup>3</sup> Goldrick-Rab, S., Richardson, J., & Schneider, J. (2018). Still Hungry and Homeless in College. Wisconsin HOPE Lab.

<sup>4</sup> Cuite, C.L., Brescia, S.A., Porterfield, V., Weintraub, D.S., & Willson, K.A. (2018). Working paper on food insecurity among students at Rutgers-New Brunswick.

[http://humeco.rutgers.edu/documents\\_pdf/RU\\_Student\\_Food\\_Insecurity\\_2018.pdf](http://humeco.rutgers.edu/documents_pdf/RU_Student_Food_Insecurity_2018.pdf)

*Whereas*, Rutgers University - New Brunswick is already acting to reduce hunger and homelessness on campus with its resources but can do more to increase coordination with administration, dining services, the campus pantry, Dean of Students, financial aid, academic services, and the student body; and,

*Whereas*, the Student Government Association of Rutgers--Newark has passed a “Resolution Against Student Hunger & Homelessness”, towards the same ends of ending hunger and ending homelessness throughout the Rutgers University system<sup>5</sup>; and,

*Whereas*, Rutgers University - New Brunswick is committed to ending student hunger and homelessness by acknowledging that no student should go hungry, homeless, food insecure, and or housing insecure given our material abundance and potential capacity for institutional programming;

*Be it further resolved*, the Rutgers University Student Assembly urges Rutgers University - New Brunswick, to committing to achieve zero hunger and homelessness on campus by year 2027 by redirecting unused or underutilized resources to food insecure students and ensuring the housing status of every student is adequately met;

*And be it further resolved*, the Rutgers University Student Assembly pushes for Rutgers University - New Brunswick to avoid institutional planning leading to increased food and resource waste that could be redirected to students in need, as well as planning not embodying a campus-wide mission of ensuring viable housing statuses for all students;

*And be it further resolved*, the Rutgers University Student Assembly urges the Rutgers administration and Rutgers President to create and implement actions centering around the reduction of homelessness and food insecurity and promotion of a campus environment dedicated to using available resources to provide for students in need, inclusive of ending food and housing insecurity through measurable benchmarks by year 2027;

*And be it further resolved that the Rutgers University - New Brunswick University Assembly:*

1. Requests Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (hereafter referred to as Rutgers University) to develop an action plan to eliminate student hunger by 2027.
2. Requests Rutgers University to develop an action plan to eliminate student food insecurity.
3. Supports the efforts of Rutgers New Brunswick, Rutgers Newark, and Rutgers Camden in applying to the Hunger Free Campus Act.

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<sup>5</sup> [“Resolution Against Student Hunger & Homelessness”](#), authored by Harrison Chiu, Brian Ray, Sarah Shobut, Ricky Castaneda, William Smith, Akwei Bortey, Lauren Wolfe

4. Calls upon Rutgers University to spread greater awareness of NJ SNAP and food pantries to students by including information about the program in new student orientation and at least one general body meeting of the student organizations on campus.
5. Calls upon Rutgers University to provide NJ SNAP training to faculty and staff.
6. Calls upon Rutgers University to provide and expand NJ SNAP registration assistance to students on all campuses.
7. Calls upon Rutgers University faculty to include information about NJ SNAP eligibility and other support services on the syllabi of all university courses.
8. Calls upon Rutgers University to examine how tuition and other expenses impact the student experience, and methods to address these socioeconomic barriers so as to ensure student wellness.
9. Calls upon Rutgers University to allocate money from its budget to support Rutgers New Brunswick, Newark, and Camden pantries from the 2020-2021 year onwards.
10. Recognizes the unique social, economic, and academic challenges food and housing insecure students face.
11. Reaffirms its support for students with food insecurity and the greater student body indefinitely.

***Be it finally resolved that***, RUSA encourages the university to recognize the unique social, economic, and academic challenges that food & housing insecure students face.