



May 06, 2017

Resolution Supporting Real Food Systems in the CSU

WHEREAS, the California State Student Association (CSSA) is the single recognized voice of approximately 470,000 students in the CSU, and

WHEREAS, in May 20-21, 2014 the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees passed the CSU Sustainability Policy with the inclusion of a Sustainable Food Service selection that instructs, “all 23 campuses to track and report food purchases based in the Real Food Challenge guidelines, or equivalent, with consideration to campus requested improvements” and “to increase their sustainable food purchases to 20 percent of total food budget by 2020¹”, and

WHEREAS, the CSSA has within its 2016-2017 policy agenda in Goal V, Strategy 3 to “advocate and support the implementation of the CSU Sustainability Policy goal to meet 20% Real Food by 2020, and educate and encourage sustainable food choices across the CSU system²”, and

WHEREAS, student governments across the CSU have shown support for the efforts of students fighting for Real Food on campus; since the passing of the CSU Sustainability Food Policy in 2014, students and allies in dining and sustainability, through their own leadership, have been the primary implementers of this policy through completing food service audits of dining facilities, promoting the policy goals amongst students, and bringing food education to campus without any institutional support from the CSU system, and

WHEREAS, Real Food Challenge defines Real Food as “food which truly nourishes producers, consumers communities and the earth. It is a food system-from seed to plate-that fundamentally respects human dignity and health, animal welfare, social justice and environmental sustainability...[and] is broken down into four core categories: local/community-based, fair, ecologically sound, and humane³”, and

WHEREAS, roughly 21% of students enrolled within the CSU have reported some form of food insecurity during a single academic year resulting in detriments to their education attainment and undermining the potential of our state’s future⁴, and

¹ California State University. (2014, May 20). Joint Meeting of the Committees on Education Policy and Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds | California State University Sustainability Policy Proposal. California State University. Retrieved from <https://www.calstate.edu/cpdc/sustainability/policies-reports/documents/JointMeeting-CPBG-ED.pdf>

² California State Student Association. (2016). 2016/2017 Policy Agenda. Retrieved from http://www.csustudents.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/policy_agenda.pdf
<http://www.csustudents.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Resolution-in-Support-of-Amending-CSU-Sustainability-Policy.pdf>

³ <http://realfoodchallenge.org/about/faq#what>

⁴ California State University. (2016). Serving Displaced and Food Insecure Students in the CSU. Retrieved from

WHEREAS, students across the CSUs have demonstrated a commitment to combating climate change through Fossil Fuel Divestment campaigns⁵, student government initiatives, and in 2006 the CSU System was an early enrollee into the Climate Registry and became one of the first institutions to calculate its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990⁶, showing a commitment to confronting climate change, and

WHEREAS, As of 2004, only 15% of agricultural production value was controlled by small- and mid-size family farms⁷, and

WHEREAS, As large buyers, universities provide the purchasing power needed for implementing and institutionalizing systematic change to the food system, and

WHEREAS, At the California State University System there are 8 campuses that outsource their food service to one of three companies: Compass Group, Aramark, and Sodexo. These three companies control 83% of the market share in the foodservice management industry⁸. These companies are also heavily invested in the Prison Industrial Complex, and have faced lawsuits for maltreatment of incarcerated persons⁹, and

WHEREAS, kickbacks¹⁰, a revenue model used by food service companies to increase their profit by purchasing from some of the biggest food manufacturers in the food business instead of farmers surrounding the CSU campuses they serve; kickbacks are not designed to ensure cheaper prices for clients; rather, kickbacks are the easiest and cheapest way for foodservice companies to increase their own income deceptively, trading student dollars and students' health for profit¹¹, and

WHEREAS, kickbacks in public K-12 schools have received much scrutiny including a legal investigation revealing the foodservice companies were exploiting a legal loophole in order to conceal kickbacks from their public school clients¹², leading New York, in 2003 to start requiring food service companies to return all kickbacks to schools, and in 2007, the USDA put out its "final rule" on kickbacks nationwide saying foodservice companies were required to reimburse all rebates against the cost of food at public K-12 schools¹³, and

<http://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/documents/ServingDisplacedandFoodInsecureStudentsintheCSUJanuary20163.8.16.pdf>

⁵ Fossil Free. (n.d.). Commitments. Retrieved January 24, 2017, from <https://gofossilfree.org/commitments/>

⁶ California State University. (2016). Climate Change | Commitment to Sustainability | CSU. Retrieved January 4, 2017, from <http://www.calstate.edu/cpd/sustainability/climate-change/>

⁷ USDA. (2005). The 20th Century Transformation of U.S. Agriculture and Farm Policy (Economic Information Bulletin No. 3). USDA. Retrieved from https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/eib3/13566_eib3_1.pdf?v=41055

⁸ Buzika, Mike. (2016, March 20). [List of top 50 contract management companies]. FM 2016 Top 50 Data Table. Retrieved from <http://food-management.com/top-50-listings/fm-2016-top-50-data-table>

⁹ Ocegüera, E., & Sager, M. (2016, June 8). The Prison Industry on Your Campus. Retrieved May 4th, 2017 from <https://medium.com/@Investigate/the-prison-industry-on-your-campus-616a856e8ff0>

¹⁰ Kickbacks are national volume discounts or rebates given to food service companies by their suppliers and an essential part of their revenue model.

¹¹ (2011). Food industry Rebates: Choosing Between Corporate Greed and ... Retrieved July 13, 2016

¹² USDA. (202). Food Service Management Companies (Audit Report No. 27601-0027-CH). Midwest Region: USDA. Retrieved from <https://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/27601-27-Ch.pdf> John Carroll's speech

¹³ USDA. (2002). Food Service Management Companies (Audit Report No. 27601-0027-CH). Midwest Region: USDA. Retrieved from <https://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/27601-27-Ch.pdf>

WHEREAS, “The CSU supports the spirit of the Legislature’s declaration as set forth in the Small Business Procurement and Contacts Act (G.C. 14835 et seq.)¹⁴,” and facilitates a process for giving preference to “small business, including micro-business, in the provision of goods, information technology, and services to the state, and in the construction of state facilities¹⁵,” including the recent amendment introduced in SB 1219 to “grant an employment social enterprise a preference and status similar to a small business or microbusiness as described above¹⁶,” and

WHEREAS, based on dining food purchasing audits conducted in the last 3 years by students in 7 different CSU campuses, the CSU currently purchases in between 3% - 9% Real Food¹⁷. That means that 91% - 97% of food currently being purchased by CSU dining facilities likely does not fall under the Real Food standards supported by the CSU Sustainable Food Policy that states the CSU will “increase their sustainable food purchases to 20 percent of total food budget by 2020¹⁸, and

WHEREAS, the California State University System’s contracts and procurement practices found within the Sustainability policy, require that:

1. The CSU will develop employee and student workforce skills in the green jobs industry, promote the development of sustainable products and services, and foster economic development.
2. The CSU will pursue sustainable practices in the areas of the university, including:
 - a. Business operations such as procurement; information technology; student services; food services; facilities operations; design and construction; and
 - b. Self-funded entities such as student housing, student unions, parking, children’s centers, and auxiliary operations (pp. 1-2)¹⁹

WHEREAS, student/worker food cooperatives are founded on mission and values of cooperation, shared governance, and profit-sharing; student-led enterprises such as student/worker food cooperatives fulfill the goals of the CSU Sustainability Policy in that they provide students with workforce skills, entrepreneurial opportunities and “further integrate sustainability into the academic curriculum²⁰,” and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing number of school farms that produce for their dining halls/on-campus food consumption; in the University of California system, UC Santa Cruz and UC Davis have championed

¹⁴ <http://www.calstate.edu/icsuam/documents/Section5000.pdf> pg 33 Section 5216 200

¹⁵ *ibid*

¹⁶ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billVersionsCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1219

¹⁷ <http://calculator.realfoodchallenge.org/institutions>

¹⁸ California State University. (2014, May 20). Joint Meeting of the Committees on Educational Policy and Campus Planning, Building and Grounds | California State University Sustainability Policy Proposal. California State University. Retrieved from <https://www.calstate.edu/cpdc/sustainability/policies-reports/documents/JointMeeting-CPBG-ED.pdf>

¹⁹ California State University. (2014, May 20). Joint Meeting of the Committees on Educational Policy and Campus Planning, Building and Grounds | California State University Sustainability Policy Proposal. California State University. Retrieved from <https://www.calstate.edu/cpdc/sustainability/policies-reports/documents/JointMeeting-CPBG-ED.pdf>

²⁰ California State University. (2014, May 20). Joint Meeting of the Committees on Educational Policy and Campus Planning, Building and Grounds | California State University Sustainability Policy Proposal. California State University. Retrieved from <https://www.calstate.edu/cpdc/sustainability/policies-reports/documents/JointMeeting-CPBG-ED.pdf>

these efforts, providing an experiential learning space for students interested in the field of agriculture, and

WHEREAS, dining operations in the CSU system—like CSU Chico, Cal Poly SLO, Cal Poly Pomona, and SFSU—have shown interest or are currently collaborating with student farms on their campuses in purchasing and procuring real food; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the CSSA supports students involved with Real Food Challenge and who have driven the implementation of the Sustainable Food Service section in the CSU Sustainability Policy to date without institution support; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA recommends that the Section on Sustainable Food Service in the CSU Sustainability Policy be implemented by the Chancellor's Office and each individual CSU Campus with high priority and collaboration with students, and the campuses use the most current version of the Real Food Standards/Guide, and Real Food Calculator to reach and go beyond the goal of 20% Real Food by 2020 and thereafter; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA urge the Chancellor's Office to direct each campus to allocate the resources necessary, financial and otherwise, that would allow the students, faculty, and staff of each CSU campus the ability to effectively evaluate their respective institution's food procurement practices; such resources include financial sponsorship of student internships, paid positions, experiential learning credit, and uniform tracking of all purchases made by dining facilities and vendors on campus; and be it further

RESOLVED, that to implement the Section of Sustainable Food Services in the CSU Sustainability Policy, the CSU should establish and support a permanent statewide multi-stakeholder Food Systems Working Group (FSWG) composed of a minimum of one representative from each campus; the FSWG as a whole should have representatives from students, faculty, dining services, sustainability, and food service workers with the intention to govern statewide and campus-level food procurement practices, and provide peer-to-peer support to transition to Real Food on campus; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA recommend each CSU campus establish and support campus-level FSWG's modeling multi-stakeholder representation and in collaboration with the statewide FSWG to govern campus-level food procurement practices and provide peer-to-peer support to transition to Real Food on Campus; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA help distribute the CSU Sustainability Food Policy Administration Manual²¹ drafted by the Real Food for CSUs Core Team to all 23 campuses' student governments and encourage the CSU Chancellor's Office to also distribute the Admin Manual amongst multi-stakeholder working groups, campus presidents, campus sustainability point person(s), procurement officers, and dining management; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA supports the access to sustainable, healthy, Real Food for all students and the campus community; that any increases in costs to not be passed down to students; and be it further

²¹ Real Food 4 CSU Core Team. (n.d.). CSU Sustainable Food Policy Administrative Manual drafted by Real Food 4 CSU Core Team. Retrieved from <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6KV6mw0tts6THY1ZlpWbnZha0k/view>

RESOLVED, that CSSA opposes the use of kickback practices on campus and on students, and urges the CSU to explicitly restrict in all their contracts the use of kickback practices, and advocate food service companies and other food contractors doing business with the CSU be 100% transparent about their compliance agreements with food vendors and producers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA supports student/worker owned food cooperative models and urges that all contracts and RFP's within the CSU prefer and prioritize Real Food, student/worker owned cooperatives, small/micro food businesses, and employment social enterprises; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA recommends that financial endowments, foundations, and auxiliary investment clubs within the CSUs create socially responsible investing (SRI) revolving funds in each CSU campus made available to student/worker food cooperatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA support dining or food vendors sourcing from campus farms or gardens; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CSSA encourage the CSU to act as stewards of the land while striving for food sovereignty; by promoting agroecology, or sustainable equivalents, universities' subsistence agriculture programs in conjunction with land stewardship give native plants and animal habitats, water systems, soil, and other fundamental life support systems a chance to regenerate, leading to increased biodiversity, overall health of the planet and community; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to, but not limited to: each of the 23 CSU Associated Students, the Office of the Chancellor, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, each of the CSU Presidents, the CSU Board of Trustees, the CSU Student Affairs Vice Presidents, the Dining Services of each of the 23 CSU campuses, California State Senators and Assembly members, and the student-run media of each of the 23 CSU campuses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Lopez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Lopez, President 2016-17