



SB #23/24-17: Hope Pantry Funding

SPONSOR: Brooklyn Henderson, Health Science Senator

CO-SPONSOR: Om Mehta, College of Natural Sciences Senator

AUTHOR: Brooklyn Henderson, Health Sciences Senator

CO-AUTHOR: Om Mehta, College of Natural Sciences Senator

Be it enacted by the SUUSA Student Senate assembled:

1. *Section 1:* The Hope Pantry, an evolving cornerstone of our campus community, presently confronts a surge in demand for food supplies amidst constrained availability. This challenge is further compounded by the onset of the fall season, traditionally marked by a diminishment in food resources. The issue gains particular prominence with the Hope Pantry's relocation to the Student Center, amplifying its visibility and reach.
2. *Section 2:* Hope Pantry findings:
 - a. Between the 2021-2022 school year to the 2022-2023 school year. There has been a substantial 75% increase in the number of students using the Hope Pantry services. This upward trend is anticipated to persist during the 2023-2024 school year. On average each month the Hope Pantry receives a monthly allocation of 1500-1600 lbs food from the food bank. In a notable development, The Hope Pantry reached 1204 uses in September of 2023, 1558 uses in October 2023 and is predicted to surpass more uses in the month of November 2023, demonstrating the

growing demand of Hope Pantry services.

- b. The Hope Pantry secures its annual funding through two main primary sources: one from the University and one from a grant application, providing them \$7,500 allocated for the Bishop's Storehouse. In the academic 2022-2023 year, the University contribution amounted to \$45,605. When combined with the grant, this equates to an average monthly \$8,850. Notably, during the Fall 2023 semester, the Hope Pantry observed a heightened demand from SUU/STECH students resulting in a monthly average of approximately \$1200 signifying the urgent need for food security assistance.
- c. The funding, if appropriated by the SUU Student Senate, if approved, will play a pivotal role in ensuring that students have greater access to essential food resources. This support goes beyond addressing physical well-being; it extends to emotional and financial security for SUU students.

3. *Section 3: Action 1:*

- a. This bill is to secure \$7,000 from the SUUSA Senate Budget exclusively for the procurement of food supplies to cater to the distinct needs of our students for the remainder of the 2023-2024 academic school year. \$500 of said funding shall specifically be allocated for the procurement of gluten-free and vegan options for students.

4. *Section 4: Clarification:*

- a. By allocating these resources, we endeavor to bolster the Hope Pantry's capacity to meet the surging demand, thereby ensuring its continued effectiveness and the provision of vital support for the well-being of our students.

5. *Section 5: Defining any ambiguous terms found in bill;*

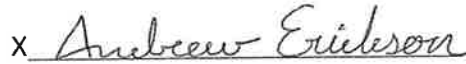
- a. "HOPE Pantry" shall mean the organization that provides essential food and toiletry items to SUU and STECH students, as well as educational opportunities to develop food budgeting, meal planning, and cooking skills;
- b. "STECH" shall mean the Southwest Technical College situated in Cedar City, Utah. It is a public technical college that has a dual enrollment partnership and program with SUU.
6. *Section 6:* The legislation and appropriations of funding shall take effect immediately after the passing of this bill.

Votes in favor: 13 Votes in opposition: 0 Votes in abstention: 0


Certification of passage:

X 
Alexis McIff
President of the Senate

Attestation of passage:

X 
Andrew Erickson
Parliamentarian of the Senate

Presidential Approval:

X 
Carson Brown
SUUSA Student Body President