

**Queensborough Community College, CUNY  
Academic Senate**

**To: Dr. Derek Bruzewicz, Chair, Committee on Bylaws**

**Fr: Emily S. Tai, Chair, Subcommittee on Food Insecurity of the Academic Senate**

**Date: January 29, 2017**

**Subject: Resolution and Bylaws Amendment Language**

On January 18, 2016, the Subcommittee on Food Insecurity of the Academic Senate voted unanimously to forward the following text, given below, to the Committee on Bylaws for their consideration:

**Resolution for the Establishment of a Standing Committee on Food Insecurity  
at Queensborough Community College**

**Whereas**, a growing body of research demonstrates that Food Insecurity is on the rise among students on college campuses, especially community college campuses, in the United States;  
and

**Whereas**, this situation is particularly pronounced at CUNY, where a 2011 study showed that 39% of CUNY students were likely to experience conditions of food insecurity on a regular basis;  
and

**Whereas**, local data, the finding of research conducted by Queensbough's Institutional Research office; Queensborough Faculty, and students, suggests that food insecurity across Queensborough's community is consistent with CUNY-wide conditions;  
and

**Whereas**, in response to these conditions, the Academic Senate adopted a December, 2015 resolution, creating a Subcommittee on Food Insecurity that met regularly over the course of the 2016 calendar year, as documented in reports maintained on the college website for March; May; September; October; November; and December, 2016;  
and

**Whereas** the report of this Subcommittee presented in March, 2016, advanced several recommendations that, in addition to supporting a partnership with Queensborough’s Newman Center, on Cloverdale Boulevard, argued for both the need, and the feasibility, of establishing a food pantry at Queensborough Community College

and

**Whereas**, in response to these recommendations, President Diane Bova Call established a space on the fourth floor of the Library Building dedicated to the storage of non-perishable foods, that was named the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry (in honor of President Call’s late mother);

and

**Whereas**, the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry opened in May, 2016, and, under the direction of four faculty members (Drs. Sharon Ellerton, Susan Jacobowitz, Amy Traver, and Subcommittee Chair Tai), conducted a successful pilot period during summer, 2016;

and

**Whereas**, on the basis of this pilot, the members of the Subcommittee on Food Insecurity, with the additional commitment of Professor Aviva Geismar, launched five weekly hours of operation for the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry effective August, 2016;

and

**Whereas**, over the course of the fall, 2016, semester, supplies for the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry were sustained by generous donations from Queensborough Faculty, students, and Administrators, as well as Food Drives that drew wide participation from various student clubs and honor societies across campus, as well as the Queensborough Student Association;

and

**Whereas**, drop-off points for these food drives on campus were also enhanced by fixtures (a rolling cart) donated by the faculty of Schmeller Library; and decorative elements supplied by Service-Learning students and faculty in the Department of Art and Design;

and

**Whereas**, the operation of the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry also proved a valuable educational resource for additional groups of faculty and students in the Departments of Biology, Business, Social Science, and Health, Physical Education, and Dance, who all utilized the Pantry as a focal point for service-learning projects, culminating in a “Hunger Awareness Day” event conducted with the cooperation of Student Clubs and Honor Societies on November 23, 2016; and a day of student presentations, organized on December 8, 2016;

and

**Whereas**, the operation of the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry was also facilitated, with the cooperation of Queensborough's Department of Marketing and Communications, by the establishment of a website, and an email address, available at:

<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/FoodPantry/>

and

**Whereas**, promoting and supply the Food Pantry has drawn upon the successful cooperation of multiple entities on campus, including and not limited to: Administrators, and administrative personnel and staff; full and adjunct faculty; Department chairs; student club members and advisors; members of Queensborough's Student Government; members of Queensborough's Student Government; and members of Queensborough's NYPIRG chapter;

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Academic Senate create a permanent Committee on Food Insecurity of the Academic Senate;

**and**

**Be It Further Resolved** that, to this end, the following language be forwarded to the Committee on Bylaws, as a proposed Amendment to Article VII of the Bylaws of the Academic Senate, *Committees*:

Section 23. The Committee on Food Insecurity Shall Consist of 11 members: 9 faculty members and 2 students: one officer of the Queensborough Student Association; and one other student.

The Committee on Food Insecurity shall:

- a. Maintain a Food Pantry during the academic year, for a minimum of four hours weekly;
- b. Establish any guidelines or parameters for the regulation of the Food Pantry as may be needed and appropriate;
- c. Promote partnerships with Queensborough Student Clubs, together with organizers of campus-wide events, to conduct Food Drives to supply the Food Pantry and raise awareness regarding food insecurity across campus;
- d. Promote partnerships with faculty and administration to explore service-learning and institutional advancement opportunities that support the Food Pantry as a means to contribute to the enhancement of student instruction, and address conditions of Food Insecurity within the Queensborough community.

and

**Be It Finally Resolved** that the operation of the Subcommittee on Food Insecurity of the Academic Senate will continue until the assembly of the standing committee membership is completed by the Committee on Committees as per Article VII, Section 8 of the Bylaws of the Academic Senate of Queensborough Community College

**Rationale:**

The problem of food insecurity on American college campuses commands a considerable literature of research, to which CUNY Faculty at the School of Public Health have made notable contributions (see references below). The establishment of Single Stop offices on several of the CUNY campuses (an initiative launched by former Vice-Chancellor Sanchez) was a critical step forward in addressing this problem at CUNY, which Chancellor J.B. Milliken has indicated he intends to expand in the coming years.

With the establishment of the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry, in May, 2016, Queensborough Community College joined the ranks of colleges and community colleges across the country that have responded to the challenge of food insecurity by going one step beyond the establishment of a Single Stop referral service, in creating a point for food distribution on their campuses. The Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry makes Queensborough the fifth CUNY campus to take this important step, after Brooklyn College; Kingsborough Community College; Hostos Community College; and LaGuardia Community College, and offers a service to students equivalent to that offered at our closest geographical neighbor, Nassau Community College of the State University of New York.

As of this writing, generous donations from faculty, students, and staff have enabled the pantry to serve approximately 50-60 students per month with non-perishable take-away items. The operation of the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry is, moreover, complemented by the availability of free, hot meals at the Newman Center, twenty hours weekly during the academic year (Monday-Thursday, noon to 4 P.M.).

The establishment of a permanent standing committee on Food Insecurity within the Academic Senate would facilitate the continuation of these services, and affirm that a commitment to addressing food insecurity on our campus as a holistic approach to implementing Queensborough's institutional mission had been formally incorporated into college policy. The establishment of a permanent standing committee of the Academic Senate would also facilitate grantsmanship on behalf of the food pantry, as well as continuing curricular development in various areas through service-learning and student and faculty research.

**Bibliography:**

Sara Goldrick-Rab, *Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid, and the Betrayal of the American Dream* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016). See website at:

<http://saragoldrickrab.com/books/#payingtheprice>

Wisconsin Hope Lab Website at: <http://saragoldrickrab.com/research/#publications>

And <http://www.wihopelab.com/>

Sarah Cunningham and Dana M. Johnson, *So You Want to Start a Campus Food Pantry? A How-To Manual* (Oregon State University, 2011), available at:

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKewjvv9inwILLAhUL2xoKHQ2GA1wQFggoMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.oregonfoodbank.org%2FOur-Work%2FPartner-With-Us%2FNew-Agency-Kit%2F~%2Fmedia%2FFiles%2FSo%2520You%2520Want%2520to%2520Start%2520a%2520Campus%2520Food%2520Pantrypdf.pdf&usq=AFOjCNFamWEHZd-8KEq5dYZAieN3PmCGDw&bvm=bv.114733917,d.dmo>

*Food and Fundraising Toolkit:*

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h0Von3MjO3om2bzoeOkAsrBP\\_YvLrfr1aKfwK1ScoxY/mobilepresent?slide=id.p#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h0Von3MjO3om2bzoeOkAsrBP_YvLrfr1aKfwK1ScoxY/mobilepresent?slide=id.p#slide=id.p)

*Running a Campus Food Pantry:*

[http://studentgovresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SGRC\\_Campus\\_Food\\_Pantry\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://studentgovresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SGRC_Campus_Food_Pantry_Toolkit.pdf)

Paul Fain, “Single Stop Before Graduation,” *Inside Higher Ed*, June 11, 2013, at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/06/11/nonprofit-group-single-stop-helps-low-income-students-avoid-financial-barriers>

Candice Ferrette, “Food Pantry for Needy Students Opens at Nassau Community College,” *Newsday*, November 7, 2015, at <http://www.newsday.com/long-island/food-pantry-for-needy-students-opens-at-nassau-community-college-1.11070535>

“Feeding Student Success,” from *The Community College Journal*

<http://www.ccjournal-digital.com/ccjournal/20160809?pg=27#pg27>

Mary Ellen Flannery, “Starving Student Stereotype is No Joke: Hunger on College Campuses is Growing,” *NEA Today*, October 26, 2016, at

<http://neatoday.org/2016/10/26/hunger-on-college-campuses/>

Nicholas Freudenberg, Luis Manzo, et al. “Food Insecurity at CUNY: Results from a Survey of CUNY Undergraduates,” (2011), available at [http://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY\\_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Centers/Center%20for%20Human%20Environments/cunyfoodinsecurity.pdf](http://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Centers/Center%20for%20Human%20Environments/cunyfoodinsecurity.pdf)

Joe Maniscalco, “Kingsborough Community College Opens Food Pantry to Help Feed Cash-Strapped Students,” *Courier Life’s Brooklyn Daily*, June 24, 2009, at [http://www.brooklyndaily.com/stories/2009/26/bay\\_news\\_newsxjgybwa06242009.html](http://www.brooklyndaily.com/stories/2009/26/bay_news_newsxjgybwa06242009.html)

Queensborough Fact Book (2014-2015)

<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/oira/factbook.html>

Tina Rosenberg, “For Striving Students, a Connection to Money,” *New York Times*, March 26, 2014, at [http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/03/26/the-system-when-it-works/?\\_r=2](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/03/26/the-system-when-it-works/?_r=2)

Emily Tai, “Students in Need: Reducing Food Insecurity at CUNY,” *UFS Blog*, December 2, 2015, at <https://sites.google.com/site/universityfacultysenatecuny/UFS-blog/studentsinneedreducingfoodinsecurityatcuny>

Melanie Grayce West, “Food Pantries Grow on New York Campuses,” *Wall Street Journal*, October 9, 2014, at <http://www.wsj.com/articles/food-pantries-grow-on-new-york-campuses-1412878544>

Eligibility for Pell Grants:

<http://pellgranteligibility.org/>

Website of Island Harvest Food Bank:

<http://www.islandharvest.org/>

The College and University Food Bank Alliance:

<http://www.cufba.org/>

Links concerning Nassau Community College’s Food Pantry:

<http://www.ediblelongisland.com/2015/11/30/nest-food-pantry-nurtures-nassau-community-college/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ieSbddpULVA>

<http://www.fox5ny.com/news/56276076-story>

**Food Bank of New York “Starter Kit:”**

[http://www.nyccah.org/files/Starter\\_Kit.pdf](http://www.nyccah.org/files/Starter_Kit.pdf)

**Website for Hostos Community College Food Pantry:**

<http://www.hostos.cuny.edu/Programs/Single-Stop-USA-Resource-Center/Hostos-Supplemental-Resources>

**CUNY Central Link describing Brooklyn College’s Food Pantry:**

<http://www1.cuny.edu/mu/forum/2015/12/07/brooklyn-college-student-support-programs-now-include-a-food-pantry/>

**Article on Brooklyn College Food Pantry (December 3, 2015)**

[http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/bcnews/bcnews\\_151203.php](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/bcnews/bcnews_151203.php)

**Kingsborough Community College Single Stop website:**

<http://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/singlestop/Pages/default.aspx>

**Kingsborough Community College, Grants Newsletter, June, 2010:**

<http://www.kingsborough.edu/sub-administration/collAdvancement/ApplyingforGrants/Documents/Grantsnewsletters/June2010GrantsNewsletter.pdf>

*(description of Ms. Lopez’s grantsmanship around the Single Stop Pantry at Kingsborough)*

**Modules used for conducting surveys regarding food insecurity by the USDA:**

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/survey-tools.aspx#six>

**Links regarding Single Stop:**

<http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/sa/specialprograms/SingleStopCCI.html>

<http://singlestopusa.org/new-study-shines-light-on-student-hunger-homelessness/>

<http://www.singlestopusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Single-Stop-Testimony-to-the-National-Commission-on-Hunger.pdf>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/10/05/many-students-in-need-have-jobs-and-financial-aid-but-still-go-hungry/?postshare=2211475689795909&tid=ss\\_tw\\_bottom](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/10/05/many-students-in-need-have-jobs-and-financial-aid-but-still-go-hungry/?postshare=2211475689795909&tid=ss_tw_bottom)

<http://civileats.com/2016/06/23/a-striking-number-of-college-students-are-food-insecure-can-campus-farms-help/>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/gwu-joining-national-movement-opens-a-food-pantry-to-feed-students-in-need/2016/09/17/673f054c-7c3a-11e6-bd86-b7bbd53d2b5d\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/gwu-joining-national-movement-opens-a-food-pantry-to-feed-students-in-need/2016/09/17/673f054c-7c3a-11e6-bd86-b7bbd53d2b5d_story.html)

**Links to Documents Relevant to the establishment and transactions of the Subcommittee on Food Insecurity of the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate**

[http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/docs/ay2015-16/December\\_2015/Attachment-I-Food-Pantry-RESOLUTION.pdf](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/docs/ay2015-16/December_2015/Attachment-I-Food-Pantry-RESOLUTION.pdf)

[http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/docs/ay2015-16/March\\_2016/Attachment-G-Hunger-SubCommittee-March-2016.pdf](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/docs/ay2015-16/March_2016/Attachment-G-Hunger-SubCommittee-March-2016.pdf)

[http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/docs/ay2016-17/September\\_2016/Attachment-X-Report-of-the-Committee-on-Food-Insecurity-Sept2016.pdf](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/docs/ay2016-17/September_2016/Attachment-X-Report-of-the-Committee-on-Food-Insecurity-Sept2016.pdf)

[http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/docs/ay2016-17/December\\_2016/Attachment-K-Food-Insecurity-Report-December-2016.pdf](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/docs/ay2016-17/December_2016/Attachment-K-Food-Insecurity-Report-December-2016.pdf)