MEMO

From the President of the McMaster Student Union

TO: Executive Board
FROM: Chukky Ibe
SUBJECT: Good Food Delivery
DATE: June 28, 2017

Friends,

As the financial burden associated with post-secondary education is rising every year, there is an increasing number of students who struggle with food insecurity. While financial burdens play a significant role in food insecurity, it is important to note that the systemic barriers are much larger and broad than the cost of food. There are significant actions that the stakeholders can take to ensure more students are food secure. The MSU shall continue to be advocate for access to nutritional and complete meals that are in line with all cultural and dietary restrictions, free of financial barriers to access. In addition to the affordability of food, students struggle to access options that align with their lifestyle, cultural or religious restrictions. Some students who choose to eat locally sourced food are unable to access sustainable options on campus.

The MSU will aim to address these student concerns with regards to the limited food options at an unreasonably high price. It should be noted that while budgetary choices and lifestyles play a significant role in food insecurity, large systemic barriers exist that prevent students from accessing food that is in line with their lifestyle. The onus should not be placed on students to navigate food systems to meet their dietary, cultural and religious restrictions. It should be the role of the university and other stakeholders to provide an inclusive campus for all students, regardless of religion, culture, dietary restrictions and lifestyle choices. In keeping with McMaster’s commitment to creating an inclusive campus, food security is the responsibility of all and should be tackled from a comprehensive lens in collaboration with all stakeholders.

The MSU and our services should align our services to ensure alignment with our policy stances on this issue. This entails expanding our current services, and looking for opportunities for collaboration, service expansion, and enhancement. One way we can do this is to consider expanding the number of good food boxes delivered. We want to make it easier to access by providing a delivery option for students who need a more convenient service, as a result of our student lifestyles. McMaster Bread bin is tasked with creating a strategy that would expand the
number of good food boxes available for students. They would also develop a framework that will allow for delivering the good food boxes.

Activities may include partnerships with the Hamilton Community Share Agricultural boxes Connecting with community food share center Hamilton, and expanding sourcing options from McMaster farm stand. This may also including connecting with other food box programs in the Westdale and Ainsley-wood area.

Action Item;

1) Under the recommendation of the executive board; The VP administration directs McMaster Bread Bin to investigate options, and perform a feasibility study for a good food delivery program.

2) Under the recommendation of the executive board; The VP administration directs McMaster Bread Bin to develop a good food box delivery strategy.

3) Under the recommendation of the executive board; The VP administration directs McMaster Bread Bin to advise on changes to McMaster Bread Bin operating policy and service options.

Your Friend,
Chukky Ibe
President and CEO
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References