



Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

Senate Bill 329-

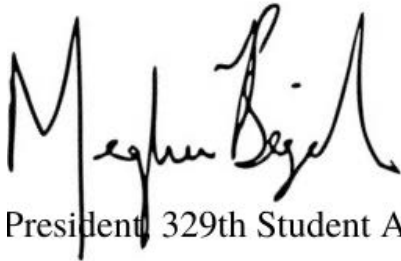
Resolution 329-

I, Meghana Boojala, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

Approve

Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation:



Meghana Boojala

President, 329th Student Assembly (21-22)

DATE:

329th Student Assembly
Senate Bill 329-027

A Bill

To ensure students do not go hungry due to the financial burden associated with off-campus isolation in compliance with COVID-19 public health measures.

The Feeding Students in Isolation Act

An Act of the 329th Student Assembly of William & Mary,

Sponsored by Senator Zach Outzen (Law '22)

Co-Sponsored by Senator Allie Wallach (Law '23)

Supported by Rev. Max Blalock (Wesley Foundation and Campus Food Pantry), Abduel Hussein (Food for All), Student Assembly President Meghana Boojala ('22)

WHEREAS, the efficacy of COVID-19 public health measures is dependent upon the ability of potential and confirmed COVID-19 carriers to self-isolate for 10 days;

WHEREAS, the College of William & Mary, like the overwhelming majority of public institutions, mandates self-isolation in the event of a positive COVID-19 test result or in cases of presumed positive exposure;

WHEREAS, this requires students reporting positive COVID-19 test results to relocate to off-campus housing throughout the duration of their 10 day isolation;

WHEREAS, the College of William & Mary is only able to finance up to two days of off-campus isolation for students complying with the 10 day isolation mandate;

WHEREAS, students are currently obligated to pay out of pocket for the remainder of the cost of housing and the entire cost of feeding themselves while in isolation;

WHEREAS, students are only eligible to receive meal deliveries from the dining hall if they are enrolled in a campus dining meal plan;

WHEREAS, students who are presumed positive for COVID-19 but are unable to obtain a COVID-19 test may be compelled to self-isolate on campus;

WHEREAS, students with presumed positive exposures are ineligible to receive the same two day COVID-19 financial assistance available to students with a positive test result;

WHEREAS, regardless of whether students are eligible to receive two days worth of funding, the costs associated with obtaining off-campus isolation housing in addition to feeding oneself can create an insurmountable financial burden for students complying with public health guidelines, particularly those already experiencing financial hardship or food insecurity;

WHEREAS, the Wesley Foundation's Campus Food Pantry and Food for All are experienced in providing free food to students seeking their assistance;

WHEREAS, representatives of Student Assembly have been meeting with the Campus Food Pantry and Food for All to create an initiative to use student volunteers to deliver prepackaged meals and groceries to students with positive COVID-19 test results isolating off-campus, or students with presumed positive exposures isolating in their dorms;

WHEREAS, these organizations have already developed infrastructure necessary to recruit student volunteers and connect them with students requesting meal deliveries;

WHEREAS, the College's COVID-19 Response Team is supportive of this initiative and intends to centralize a secure meal delivery request system as part of COVID-19 reporting protocols, as well as training COVID-19 case managers to refer students to this resource;

WHEREAS, upon receiving a request for meal deliveries, at least one representative of Student Assembly will coordinate with the Campus Food Pantry, Food for All, and volunteers to put together one week's worth of meals to deliver to students requesting deliveries;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 active cases on campus continue to rise, and may be presumed to increase further subsequent to the Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks;

WHEREAS, it is of immeasurable harm to our constituents to experience undue financial hardship as a result of complying with public health guidelines, all while trying to pursue a full-time education;

WHEREAS, under §3.3-5.7(1)(j) of the Student Assembly Code, the Student Assembly has the authority to appropriate funds for "humanitarian activities," defined as, "activities which, through student action, promote or encourage the humane treatment of people or animals."

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Is committed to addressing opportunities to reduce student food insecurity, particularly as a result of complying with public health guidelines.
2. Recognizes that due to institutional limitations, an agile collaboration that involves multiple stakeholders across the campus community is the best way to fulfill this commitment.
3. Allocates up to \$2,000 from the Student Assembly Reserves to the Wesley Foundation to be utilized for the purpose of purchasing food and groceries to be delivered by student volunteers to students requesting meal deliveries through this program;
 - a. \$1,200 will be disbursed to the Campus Food Pantry upon the enactment of this legislation.
 - b. On February 15, 2022, at least one representative from Student Assembly will meet with the Campus Food Pantry to review expenditures in furtherance of this legislation. If, on that date, it is determined that additional funding is necessary to sustain the program, the remaining \$800 will be disbursed to the Campus Food Pantry.
4. Stipulates that at the end of the Spring 2022 semester, the Student Assembly works with Wesley Foundation and Food for All to determine whether all unused funds should be rolled over to continue this initiative for the 2022-2023 academic year, or be returned to the Student Assembly Reserves.
5. Tasks at least one Student Assembly Representative with assisting in the coordination of volunteer efforts, outreach and recruiting of volunteers, and otherwise implementing this initiative on campus.