

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Government Association Student Senate Resolution R025

Title: Commitment to Fair Food Practices

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Sponsors: Mollie Buller, Temmuz Coskun, Matt Onstott, Matt Sullard

WHEREAS, As students and members of the campus community we have the right to know where the food served on our campus comes from and under what conditions it is produced, and the right to have a say in the contracting and procurement policies of our university; and

WHEREAS, Wichita State University is a public state university with stated goals of “making original contributions to knowledge and human understanding, and serving as an agent of community service;” and

WHEREAS, All students pay tuition that supports a multi-million-dollar food service contract between Wichita State University and the Sodexo corporation; and

WHEREAS, During the period roughly equivalent to the academic year, about 90% of the fresh tomatoes produced in the U.S. come from Florida; and

WHEREAS, Major food service providers like Sodexo purchase a tremendous amount of tomatoes, serving them to students at schools across the country; and

WHEREAS, Florida tomato pickers are some of the most exploited workers in the country, suffering from sub-poverty wages, no overtime pay, and in the most extreme cases, modern-day slavery; and therefore be it resolved

RESOLVED, the Wichita State University Student Government Association urges Sodexo to meet with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, agree to pay a penny more per pound to directly improve Florida tomato pickers' wages, and, together with the CIW, implement an enforceable, human-rights-based Code of Conduct for its tomato supply chain; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Government Association also urges the Wichita State University administration to publicly call on Sodexo to do the same; and

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be respectfully forwarded to Dr. Donald Beggs, President of Wichita State University; Dr. Ronald Kopita, Vice President of Campus Life and University Relations; Dr. Cheryl Adams, Dean of Students; Jim Herrman, Director of Rhatigan Student Center; David Caridas, General Manager of WSU Dining; *The Sunflower*, the student newspaper of Wichita State University; and Arlin Wasserman, Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, Sodexo

Date Signed

Zach Gearhart
President of the Association

Chevis Rebstock
President of the Student Senate