Sponsors: Geneva Zoltek

Vote Necessary: Majority

Intent: To express the support of the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) for the implementation of the Montana State University Bobcat Pantry.

Whereas, the Bobcat Pantry will be a free resource centrally located on campus that will serve as a functional space and network for redistribution of fresh and non-perishable food; and

Whereas, 30.56% of respondents to a fall 2015 survey reported to experiencing food insecurity because of a lack of time, money, and resources to acquire food; and

Whereas, Title IV of the Farm Bill amendments in 2014 state that college students, with few exceptions, are not eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits; and

Whereas, the Bobcat Pantry will increase food availability to students and their families, decrease campus food waste, reduce stigma regarding food insecurity, enhance food security throughout the Montana State University community, and educate people on nutritional health; and

Whereas, the Bobcat Pantry will allow to students to increase their focus on academics rather than food, nutrition, and financial burdens; and

Whereas, the Bobcat Pantry will work towards increasing Montana State University retention rates, and meet Montana State University’s mission to address global challenges which includes reducing hunger.

Therefore, let it be resolved that: The Associated Students of Montana State University support the establishment of the Montana State University Bobcat Pantry.

Let it be even further resolved that: a copy of this resolution be sent to Levi Birky, ASMSU President; Holly Capp, ASMSU Vice-President; Marianne Brough, ASMSU Director of Operations; Joshua B. Soares, ASMSU Senate Speaker; Allie Dove, ASMSU Senate Speaker Pro Tempore; Dr. Waded Cruzado, President of Montana State University; Dr. Chris Kearns, Vice President for Student Success; Dr. Matthew Caires, Dean of Students; Erin Murdoch, ASMSU Exponent; Anna Diffenderfer; Dr. Allison Harmon; and Deborah Haynes.