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**TO:** Grand Valley State University Student Body, University Food Committee, Craig Wieschhorster, Associate Vice President for Business and Finance; Doug Wentworth, Director of Auxiliary Services; Paul Kramer, Aramark District Manager

**FROM:** Grand Valley State University Student Senate

**SUBJECT:** Campus Dining and Food Issues on Campus

**DATE:** March 4th, 2022

**cc:** President Philomena V. Mantella

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We, the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the Student Body, would like to state that we acknowledge and echo the student body's concerns regarding Campus Dining and the food issues present on our campus.

First and foremost, Student Senate acknowledges the challenges around food issues that have impacted students. We also acknowledge the challenging times that are creating issues around food at Grand Valley and the fact that Campus Dining and the University Food Committee are working to address those issues. Student Senate encourages university administration to both reevaluate the continuation of the contract with Aramark when the opportunity arises and to request new and improved services rather than the ones currently being provided. Current services are not sufficiently addressing the needs of the student body. We implore the opportunity to collaborate with promoting new initiatives. Student Senate supports having a student representative involved in the Aramark contract renewal process when the time arises.

Secondly, Student Senate encourages University administration to actively seek new measures to administer and advance meal plan options for students through increasing the allocated amount of dining dollars per student and exploring new meal exchange capabilities. Students want to be offered increased flexibility with their meal plans because university operations are not at full capacity, and to request additional accommodations for the current lack of accessible food options.

Thirdly, Student Senate supports the University Food Committee to recommend the expansion of dining options and accessibility to university administrators. There is room for improvement for Campus Dining to offer students better food sources with special dietary needs, provide a diverse array of cultural food options, and to have healthy food options, as there have been numerous reports of students not being satisfied with current offerings.

Lastly, Student Senate prompts the University Food Committee to reevaluate the current state of student employment for Campus Dining. We ask our partners on the Committee to explore increased student worker wages, work to continuously improve working conditions and a working environment that enforces appropriate treatment for workers, and provide the same degree of benefits for Campus Dining workers that are provided to other students employed through Grand Valley. We recommend that the University Food Committee creates action items in terms of student employment that can be implemented with the collaboration of Campus Dining to explore.



We recommend the University Food Committee considers our requests in alignment with the work they have been designated to complete throughout the remainder of the semester, as well as urge university administration to consider our requests for action regarding the reevaluation of our current dining programs and the possibility of introducing new and improved programs within the coming year.

Student Senate is formally requesting written information of the bureaucratic structure between Campus Dining and Aramark. We would also like to receive a formal update from university administration and the University Food Committee on the requests for improvement.

As we operate through a foundation of shared governance, Student Senate invites collaboration, outreach, and an open dialogue from our University partners in the future to bring these desires of the student body into fruition. As members of Grand Valley State University's Student Senate, we continue to dedicate ourselves to cultivating a student body that is engaged, healthy, and empowered. We passionately believe that implementation of these requests will both address and be reflective of the student body's needs. As stated within our mission, we hope to continue to accurately represent the student voice and the needs of students through shared understanding and compassion.

**Respectfully submitted on this fourth day of March, 2022.**

**Grand Valley State University Student Senate**

*Autumn Mueller, President*

*Jim O'Neil, Executive Vice President*

*Eldon Pearson, Vice President of Public Relations*