



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

90th Session, 2022-2023

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REQUIRING THAT ALL ASUN DEPARTMENTS HAVE GLUTEN-FREE AND VEGAN FOOD ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE AT ALL ASUN EVENTS

Resolution Number: 112

Authored By: Senator Bryan on behalf of AD Campus Wellness Stacen Suzuki

Sponsored By: 2022-2023 Student Government Assembly

Whereas, the Statutes of the Associated Students nor the Constitution of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada mention nothing about the inclusivity of dietary restrictions at ASUN events that serve food to students;

Whereas, gluten-free food is defined as food that does not include gluten. Most foods made from wheat, barley, rye, and some oats contain gluten, including bread, cereal, crackers, pasta, and baked goods, which all can have gluten-free alternatives¹;

Whereas, most ASUN departments that have events throughout the session serve food to the students;

Whereas, the Department of Event Programming attempts to look for gluten-free and vegan alternatives for food they provide at events, including those during Welcome Week, Homecoming Week, Welcome Back Week, etc. whenever possible;

Whereas, the following is a statement made by Director Zamudio from the Department of Event Programming of the 90th Session: "Although there is not a set standard for the Department of Event Programming to have these types of alternatives, we always try to ensure that there is. When discussing our budgets for events with food, we remind each other to budget for these food alternatives. I think that it is

¹ <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/most-common-dietary-restrictions#8.-2>

important for there to be a set standard for all departments when they host events with food and to have these alternatives to fit the dietary restrictions UNR students might have. This is important because all students will feel welcome at our events and initiatives if they know that their dietary restrictions were kept in mind when planning an event.";

Whereas, other departments during the 89th Session, such as the Department of Clubs and Organizations, the Department of Sustainability, the Department of Campus Wellness, and the Department of Diversity and Inclusion (now the Department of IDEA), took strides to include the gluten-free and vegan alternatives in their events, and most continue to do so in the 90th Session as well;

Whereas, the following is a statement made by Director Taylor from the Department of Clubs and Organizations of the 90th Session:

“As far as our events go, we always try to make sure that there are different food options for people with different dietary restrictions. That's always one of the first things we think about when planning events just to make sure that everyone can participate and get the benefits of the events we put on. I also think that by including these different food options, we are serving a wider range of students and being able to utilize the student funds that support ASUN!”;

Whereas, the following is a statement made by Director Wolfgang and Commissioner Cedeño from the Department of IDEA of the 90th Session:

"The IDEA Department, which specifically changed its name to further embrace making our campus more Accessible and Equitable for students with underrepresented identities, believes that keeping accessibility and equity in mind when ordering food and drinks for programs within ASUN needs to be an expectation and should be written into our programming models. It is estimated that around 1,600 students on our campus likely practice forms of veganism and/or vegetarianism. It is also estimated that around 1,200 students on our campus likely have gluten sensitivity, both in acute diagnoses and more mild sensitivities. Research shows the data in these topics is trending up, which means these numbers will likely be higher in the near future. Keeping these statistics in mind, we as an Association can continue to cater to this student population by mandating the accessibility of having alternative food options at all of our ASUN programs.";

Whereas, although most departments in the 90th Session are already trying to implement such practices, it is still essential to set a standard for future ASUN Departments who may not have the same ideals or practices;

Whereas, serving gluten-free and vegan food at events includes six of the ten most common dietary restrictions people have, including lactose intolerance, gluten intolerance, vegetarianism, veganism, dairy-free, and some food allergies¹;

Whereas, there are many different, affordable, and local vegan restaurants of many different cultures in Reno, including but not limited to House of Mexica, Nom Eats with Seats, Great Full Gardens, Sizzle Pie, Thali Reno, etc.^{2,3};

Whereas, there are many different, affordable, and local gluten-free restaurants of many different cultures in Reno, including but not limited to Elixir, Eclipse Pizza, Arario Midtown, Great Full Gardens, Café De Thai, Laughing Planet, Thai Lotus, Pizanos, Süp, Teriyaki Madness, etc.^{4,5};

Whereas, inclusivity of those with dietary restrictions along with all other different minority groups is imperative uphold SAS Introduction, Ch. 002, Sec. 04- CODE OF CONDUCT;

Whereas, those who are vegan can be classified as those who have a specific “creed” of an individual and those who are gluten-free can be classified as having a “physical or mental impairment”⁶;

Whereas, the Merriam-Webster defines creed as “a brief authoritative formula of religious belief” and “a set of fundamental beliefs”. Those who are vegan tend to hold a set of core beliefs about their responsibilities and care for animals^{7,8};

Whereas, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines physical or mental impairments as “visual, speech, and hearing impairments; mental retardation, emotional illness, and specific learning

² <https://www.happycow.net/>

³ <https://thebeet.com/whats-vegan-jasons-deli/>

⁴ <https://www.findmeglutenfree.com/us/nv/reno>

⁵ <https://foursquare.com/top-places/reno/best-places-glutenfree-food>

⁶ https://de5u0yfu98nbk.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/90_SAS_10-14-22.pdf

⁷ <https://kentemploymentlaw.com/creed-protecting-veganism-as-a-human-right/#:~:text=%E2%80%9Ca%20brief%20authoritative%20formula%20of,over%20past%20decades%20is%20veganism>

⁸ <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/creed#:~:text=%CB%88kr%C4%93d,also%20%3A%20a%20guiding%20principle>

disabilities; cerebral palsy; epilepsy; muscular dystrophy; multiple sclerosis; orthopedic conditions; cancer; heart disease; diabetes; and contagious and noncontagious diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV disease (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic)”, with special emphasis on “contagious and noncontagious diseases” where gluten intolerance and sensitivity could fall under this category;⁹

Be it resolved that, ASUN events shall have gluten-free and vegan alternatives, when they are available, affordable, possible, and necessary, when departments serve food at said events, and to have event planners add these alternatives to all budget proposals whenever available, affordable, possible, and necessary.

Be it further resolved that, the information in this legislation will be presented to any officer who goes through event planning.

Be it further resolved that, this piece of legislation be sent to the following individuals and groups:

- President’s Cabinet
- Sandra Rodriguez
- Officers of ASUN who will have or will receive event training through ASUN

Adopted in Senate on March 15th, 2023

Attest:

Wyatt Layland, Senate Secretary

Andrew Thompson, Speaker of the Senate

⁹ <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/civilrights/resources/factsheets/ada.pdf>