

Special Committee on Food Insecurity

Senate of the Associated Students 93rd Session
Agenda for The 13th of May 5/13/2025, at 3:30pm

In-Person: President's Conference Room located in the ASUN Center for Student Engagement
Virtual: Email Senator Saporito for the Zoom link: senatorSaporito@asun.unr.edu

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting for the Special Committee on Food Insecurity was called to order by Chair Saporito on May 13, 2025, at 3:31 PM in the Frankie Sue Del Papas Presidents Conference Room.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that the University of Nevada, Reno is situated on the traditional homelands of the Numu (Northern Paiute), Wašiw (Washoe), Newe (Western Shoshone), Nuwu (Southern Paiute) peoples. These lands continue to be a gathering place for Indigenous peoples and we recognize the deep connections to these places. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on their territory

3. ROLL CALL

Roll Call must be listed by Secretaries.

- a. Chair Saporito — Present
- b. Senator Atkinson — Absence Excused
- c. Senator Houghtelling — Present
- d. Senator Levy — Present
- e. Senator Palmer — Present on Zoom

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (INFORMATION ONLY)

Items heard under public comment may be for items either on or off the agenda. Action may not be taken on items raised under public comment. The Chair may elect to take public comment on action items on this agenda. The Chair may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak.

- No public comment given in-person, on Zoom, or through letter.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

There are no minutes to be approved at this time.

6. REPORTS (INFORMATION ONLY)

- a. Presentation on Pack Provisions – Ryan Syad

- Ryan Syad, Assistant Director of Pack Provisions, gave a presentation introducing the campus food pantry and highlighting its services, challenges, and future goals. Pack Provisions has existed in various forms since 1987, with its current structure established around 2011 or 2016. The pantry is located at the Center for Student Engagement and is open five days a week, allowing students to visit once per day. Syad explained that their visit data reflects not only individual needs but also supply limitations. As supply has increased, demand has consistently risen to match, indicating unmet needs remain across campus.
 - Recent survey data from Fall 2024 shows that approximately 33% of undergraduates report being *very* food insecure, which suggests actual food insecurity is likely affecting a much larger portion of the student population. The pantry is currently only able to

serve a fraction of those in need, highlighting the limitations of its current capacity and reach, especially with limited access to areas like North and South Campus.

- Pack Provisions has partnered with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and the Asian Community Development Council (ACDC) to provide monthly SNAP outreach and application support. These efforts are meant to help students navigate the often complicated application process for federal food assistance. While other community partners like Catholic Charities have offered support, current outreach is managed primarily through existing collaborations.
- Mobile Monday, a once-a-month food distribution event offering fresh produce and basic goods, continues to draw mixed attendance depending on the time of the semester. While it increases access to resources, it's typically attended by students already familiar with Pack Provisions. Logistical challenges like transportation, limited storage, and unpredictable attendance impact its consistency and effectiveness. There is interest in expanding outreach to more parts of campus, including the medical school and South Campus, through flyers or satellite events.
- Regarding meal support, Pack Provisions also facilitates access to the Meal Swipe program for students who are food insecure and not on a meal plan. Eligibility requires visiting the pantry at least five times in a semester. Approved students are issued five meal swipes, which are loaded onto their Wolf Cards through a coordination process with Nevada Dining and Residence Halls.
- Funding for Pack Provisions primarily comes from donations, salary contributions from faculty, and special programs such as the license plate initiative. While federal grants are accessed indirectly through the food bank, the pantry recently gained a coordinator position, allowing it to begin exploring additional grant opportunities. However, care is taken to avoid grants that may exclude or negatively impact international students.
- In closing, Syad emphasized that while Pack Provisions is doing important work, it is only scratching the surface in meeting campus-wide food insecurity needs. Additional funding, outreach, and infrastructure will be essential to expanding services to better serve the growing demand.

7. OLD BUSINESS (INFORMATION ONLY/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

There is no old business to consider at this time.

8. NEW BUSINESS (INFORMATION ONLY/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

a. Election of Vice Chair

- Senator Houghtelling presented and was voted unanimously as Vice-Chair for the Special Committee

9. PUBLIC COMMENT (INFORMATION ONLY)

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- No public comment given in-person, on Zoom, or through letter.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting for the Special Committee on Food Insecurity was adjourned by Chair Saporito on May 13, 2025, at 4:02 PM in the Frankie Sue Del Papas Presidents Conference Room.

11. NOTES.

Agenda items may be considered out of order at the discretion of the Chair. The Committee may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The Committee may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time.

The Associated Students supports providing equal access to all programs for people with disabilities. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call the Committee Chair at (775) 784-6589 in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.



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