



FACULTY CENTER

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Committee of Eleven

November 23, 2020

Dear Dr. Robbins,

We have recently become aware that the Student Union has proposed to charge the Campus Pantry \$80,000 in rent for AY 21-22. We recognize that Secretary of the University Jon Dudas has provided a temporary solution by waiving the rent for the remainder of the Fall 2020 semester. For the sake of our most vulnerable students, however, **we urge you to intervene immediately to provide a long-term solution.**

As you are well aware, the Campus Pantry provides an invaluable resource to our students, one in three of whom will suffer some form of food insecurity during their time at the University of Arizona. The current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic have only exacerbated the precarious situation for many of our students, who have been affected by financial difficulties and loss as a result of the pandemic. The recent growth of the Campus Pantry is reflective of its vital importance for our community and the excellent work that our students are doing.

We recognize that auxiliaries like the Student Union are in a difficult financial position as a result of the COVID-19 financial downturn; however, charging the Campus Pantry an exorbitant rental fee is not a proper response. Neglecting the basic necessities of life for our most vulnerable population would mean a fundamental failure of our mission as a land-grant university.

We ask that you intervene as follows:

- Waive and/or allocate central funding to cover all outstanding and impending rental charges for the Campus Pantry.
- Arrange for a permanent rent-free space for the Campus Pantry or for the establishment of a Basic Needs Center that houses both Campus Pantry and Campus Closet.
- Secure adequate funding to provide the Campus Pantry with necessary equipment (including refrigeration).

We appreciate the previous support that you have given the Campus Pantry and know that you recognize its value. We trust that you will prioritize this matter and rectify the issue immediately.

On behalf of our students, thank you for your consideration of our concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Committee of Eleven