Title: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SIGNING THE REAL FOOD CAMPUS COMMITMENT

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Resolution Number: 05. 14-15

WHEREAS the Food and Agriculture Organization -contributing to the 2014 Intergovernmental
Panel on Climate Change Report¹- reports that annual global greenhouse gas emissions from
agriculture are at the highest level in history; on this trajectory, global agricultural emissions are
projected to increase 30% by 2050⁰; and

WHEREAS due to corporate consolidation and concentration in the agricultural industry of the
United States, the largest scale operations only account for 4% of all farms yet produce 66% of
the crop supply³, thus contributing to annual loss of family farms⁴; and

WHEREAS the farm workers who cultivate nearly our entire supply of fruits and vegetables are
some of the lowest paid, least protected, workers in the most unsafe working conditions in the
United States⁵; and

WHEREAS upwards of 99% of animals farmed for their meat and by-products are raised on
factory farms in deplorable conditions with routine physical abuse⁶; and

WHEREAS our food system is driving an epidemic of diabetes and diet-related disease with
more than one-third of U.S. adults, and 17% of U.S. children, obese, with related medical costs
for adults alone soaring to $147 billion in 2008⁷; and

WHEREAS, defined by the national Real Food Challenge movement, Real Food nourishes the
earth, producers, consumers and communities by adhering to third party certification qualifying
a product as ecologically sound, fair, local/community based and/or humane⁸, therefore actively

¹ IPCC, 2014: pp. 816-887
Flammini (2014). Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use Emissions by Sources and Removals by Sinks 1990-
³ United States Department of Agriculture. 2012 Census of Agriculture. Tom Vilsack, Cynthia Z.F. Clark. AC-12-A-
⁴ Starmer, E. Corporate Power in Livestock Production: How it’s Hurting Farmers, Consumers, and Communities
and What We Can Do About It. Agriculture Accountability Initiative, LEVELING THE FIELD – ISSUE BRIEF #1
⁵ Inventory of Farmworker Issues and Protections in the United States. Bon Appetit Management Company
Foundation, United Farm Workers and Oxfam America. March 2011.
⁶ Cited in “Eating Animals” by Jonathan Safran Foer from the 2007 census inventory and EPA regulations and the
Humane Society of the United States
(http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/AAG/obesity.htm)
⁸ As defined and ensured by 3rd party certifications:
http://www.realfoodchallenge.org/sites/g/files/g809971/f/201403/Real%20Food%20Guide%20Version%201.0%20
creating a healthy, just and sustainable food system for all; and

WHEREAS, the University has committed to conduct business affairs in a socially responsible and ethical manner, and be a leader in sustainability to protect and preserve the global environment; and

WHEREAS, UW Housing and Food Services (HFS) spends over $12 million on food annually and these budgets provide the capacity to significantly impact our nation’s food system through purchasing decisions; and

WHEREAS, HFS Dining states that their goal is to provide a sustainable UW dining system, in recognition of the increasing demand for sustainable dining practices by students; and

WHEREAS, the Real Food Calculator is recognized by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (AASHE STARS) to be an effective metric for sustainable food procurement and has been instituted in over 130 college campuses in the US; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington purchases approximately 20% Real Food annually based on Real Food Calculator results showing 16% Real Food procurement in January and February of 2013 and the UW Food Sustainability Metrics; and

WHEREAS, Gonzaga University, University of Montana, University of Utah and the entire California State University system have signed the Campus Commitment to 20% or more Real Food by 2020; meaning UW would be the second in Pac-12 to sign the Campus Commitment which would attract and retain students through investment in Real Food; and

WHEREAS additional availability of Real Food provides incentive for increased dining on campus; and

WHEREAS UW students have shown strong support for the enactment of the Campus Commitment, March 2014.

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9 University of Washington Code of Conduct. Advisory committee on Trademarks and Licensing.
11 http://green.uw.edu/dashboard/food
12 https://www.hfs.washington.edu/sustainabledining/#gsc.tab=0
13 AASHE STARS Technical Manual p. 149
http://www.aashe.org/files/documents/STARS/2.0/stars_2.0_technical_manual_-_administrative_update_two.pdf,
Real Food Calculator http://calculator.realfoodchallenge.org/help/getting_started#About,
15 800 UW students, staff and faculty were voluntarily surveyed over a period of a month, 81% of respondents answered “yes” to the following question: “If Real Food were more available, would you dine more often on campus?”
16 800 UW students, staff and faculty were voluntarily surveyed over a period of a month, 93.5% answering ‘yes’ to support the campus commitment (a copy of commitment was provided on survey)
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT
SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT the GPSS supports the University of Washington signing the Real Food Campus
Commitment, dedicating 25% of food procurement purchases to Real Food by 2020 with an
annual increase of 1% thereafter; and

THAT in compliance with the Campus Commitment, the GPSS supports the formation of a
campus Food Systems Working Group, made up of staff, faculty, food service managers, food
service workers, relevant local stakeholders and no less than half students, responsible for
developing and coordinating the implementation of an official Real Food Policy; and

THAT a Food Systems Working Group would allow stakeholder engagement, student
participation, and inclusive decision making in the formation of the campus food system through
advising on food procurement and related programming and education; and

THAT in compliance with the Campus Commitment, the GPSS supports establishing a
transparent reporting system through the continued use of the Real Food Calculator, to assess
food procurement annually; and

THAT copies of this resolution be sent to UW Interim President Ana Mari Cauce and UW
Interim Provost Jerry Baldasty; Vice President of Student Life Denzil Suite; UW Housing and
Food Services Director Pamela Schreiber; UW Board of Regents; GPSS President Alice
Popejoy; ASUW President Christina Xiao; RCSA President Laura McFarlane; Faculty Senate
Chair Kate O’Neill.

Presented to GPSS for approval on April 22, 2015
Approved on April 22, 2015