The Poly Pantry

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Background: The 2016-2017 ASI Student Government is committed to fighting food insecurity on campus, and a variety of programs are necessary to ensure as wide a coverage as possible. Amongst these is a dedicated food pantry. It is the recommendation of the ASI Lobby Corps that a food pantry be implemented, and this initiative is supported by the Vice President of Student Affairs. ASI has the necessary resources to develop a food pantry within a reasonable timeline to help service this urgent need.

Purpose: To charge the creation of a food pantry, or “The Poly Pantry”, and outline the minimum parameters for its operation. Upon approval, ASI is to take the necessary steps to implement the food pantry by the designated timeline.

Description and Scope: The food pantry will be a resource to food-insecure students by providing both perishable and non-perishable food items. ASI will establish a location within the Bronco Student Center as well as coordinate with the University for a full program of operation, research, assessment, and education.

Policy: ASI will establish and operate a food pantry as soon as possible within the 2017-2018 fiscal year. This timeline may be extended by authorization of both the ASI President and Executive Director, in consultation with the Vice President for Student Affairs, and must be due to an inability to accommodate any legal/technical/financial standards within the timeline.

Implementation: The creation of a food pantry space and program will require multiple components of implementation to ensure that the initiative is addressed in a timely manner for students facing food insecurities. ASI shall consider each component with the appropriate coordination with the campus community while considering the financial implications, to accomplish the following:
o ASI may use Pegasus as a space for the food pantry within the Bronco Student Center. The location of the food pantry may be modified if Pegasus is found to be incapable of meeting the necessary standards for operation and if another space is made available.

o ASI shall accommodate all necessary equipment and appropriate storage for perishable and non-perishable items.

o ASI shall develop a budget for the necessary upgrades and renovation of the identified space. This shall include research on certification requirements for appropriate health agencies, risk management, and other compliance relating to the storage and handling of non-perishable and perishable items.

o ASI shall coordinate with the University for the designation of one staff member at minimum to operate the program. Staff responsibilities may include the guidance of students to the food pantry; outreach and marketing; assistance in developing educational programs and initiatives associated with food insecurity; and management of inventory and assessment of the space and program.