



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 3, 2020
To: Students of California State University San Marcos
From: Kenneth Tran, President & CEO
Re: Statement on CSUSM Dining Program

In 2019, the CSUSM Corporation (CSUSM Corp) announced the implementation of a new Dining Program coming Fall of 2020. The current plan is to house this dining hall on the first floor of the QUAD, one of the two residence halls at CSUSM that provide kitchens in each unit. The new, mandatory meal plans cost \$4,598 for first-year students and \$3,098 for upper-class students. Residents have the opportunity to choose from multiple meal plans including dining dollars or meals-per-week. Further information on resident meal plans can be found [online](#).

The CSUSM Corp and CSUSM Dining Services presented to the ASI Board of Directors about the mandatory Dining Program on October 4th, 2019. At this meeting, the ASI Board of Directors expressed concerns about the meal plans pertaining to affordability and accessibility for housing students. Since this meeting, the ASI Executive Officers have maintained consistent communication with the CSUSM Corp. The following points have been discussed:

Exemption Process: Prior to releasing the meal plans, the exemption process was not finalized. We advocated that the exemption process be accommodating to students with financial hardships, religious restrictions, dietary restrictions or those enrolled in CalFresh. CSUSM Corp is working to meet these accommodations and will be communicating updates soon.

Scholarships and Waivers: We shared a concern that the Dining Program will create a barrier for students who utilize financial aid. CSUSM Corp will be releasing communication soon regarding possible scholarships and waivers for students applying for housing and consequently, the new resident meal plans.

CalFresh Meal Plan: We found that the mandatory meal plans excluded students from being eligible for CalFresh. We worked with CSUSM Corp to develop the CalFresh Meal Plan which ensures that any student is able to apply and potentially enroll in CalFresh.

Dining Advisory Committee: A Dining Advisory Committee was created by CSUSM Corp. This committee allows students to play an active role in providing feedback and suggestions for the dining hall. This committee is composed of students from CSUSM Residence Hall Council, Associated Students, Inc., and CSUSM Housing residents.

We understand that this change will affect many incoming housing students. The following are resources available for all students to utilize:

- The [Financial Aid and Scholarships](#) is available to explain the types of student aid programs available and the requirements necessary to maintain continued eligibility for financial aid.
- [Short-term loans](#) are available through the Financial Aid Office. This program provides no-cost, short-term financial assistance to CSUSM students for unexpected expense.
- [CalFresh](#) is a USDA funded program that helps students receive the funds needed for nutritious food items and groceries.
- [Handshake](#) is a tool that helps students connect with employment opportunities on and off campus. For more assistance with employment or career options, please visit the [Career Center](#).

The ASI Board of Directors is holding a [committee meeting](#) this Friday, March 6, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. in the University Student Union, room 2310. Student attendance and feedback is always welcome. CSUSM Corporation will also be there to answer any questions.

Kenneth Tran
President of the Associated Students, Inc. of CSUSM

CC: Dr. Ellen Neufeldt, President of California State University San Marcos
Jaelyn Freeman, Chair & Chief of Staff of Associated Students, Inc. of CSUSM
Mariana Rosales, Executive Vice President of Associated Students, Inc. of CSUSM
Michelle Tran, Vice President of Student & University Affairs of Associated Students, Inc. of CSUSM