

RESOLUTION 1

TO: Student Government Association

FROM: Cheyanne Matulewich, President of the Student Government Association

SPONSOR: Angela Armstrong, Senator of the Student Government Association

DATE: September 6th, 2019

SUBJECT: Housing Insecurity

ACTION REQUESTED

That the College of SUNY Cobleskill allow students to stay on campus during the breaks that occur during the semester, including winter break, free of expense if they are in danger of being homeless, already homeless, or do not feel safe at home.

RESOLUTION

I recommend that the Student Government Association adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, A survey of nearly 86,000 students taken last fall by The Hope Center for College, Community and Justice found that homelessness affected 18% of respondents attending two-year colleges, and 14% of those attending four-year institutions.¹

Whereas, The number who said they had experienced housing insecurity, such as difficulty paying rent, was much higher, at 60%, among those attending two-year schools, and at 48% for those enrolled in four-year institutions.²

Whereas, Many students are unwilling to talk or show that they are in danger of being homeless or say that they are already homeless due to social culture and discrimination.

Whereas, Researchers have identified the following as reasons for homelessness among college students: Lack of Sufficient Income, Lack of Affordable Housing, and Family and Parental Conflict.³

Whereas, There are partnerships that many other institutions have made like On Point. On point provides housing for other institutions free of charge.⁴

¹ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/06/10/homelessness-among-college-students-growing-crisis/3747117002/>

² <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/06/10/homelessness-among-college-students-growing-crisis/3747117002/>

³ McWhirter, Katy. "Help for Homeless College Students: Resources & Programs." *AffordableCollegesOnline.org*, AffordableCollegesOnline.org, 19 Sept. 2019, www.affordablecollegesonline.org/homeless-students-guide.

⁴ <https://www.onpointforcollege.org/already-in-college/housing-support-for-special-circumstances/>

Whereas, Other campuses have created on campus resources to help their fellow students in need with programs such as Campus Awareness, Resource & Empowerment (CARE) Services.⁵

Resolved, that SUNY Cobleskill will establish a program to provide resources to students in need of housing during school breaks, which include the winter break between fall and spring semester.

Resolved, that SUNY Cobleskill ensure that students feel safe and have a welcoming environment, where students know that they have a place to stay when in crisis, and where students know they are supported.

Resolved, that SUNY Cobleskill Financial Aid services will provide assistance in completing the FAFSA for Homeless students, and, be it finally,

Resolved, that this resolution be distributed to the students of SUNY Cobleskill, Division of Student Development, Division of Academic Affairs, the DEI Action Group, College Council, and the SUNY Cobleskill President, where SGA calls for action for this resolution.

⁵ McWhirter, Katy. "Help for Homeless College Students: Resources & Programs." *AffordableCollegesOnline.org*, AffordableCollegesOnline.org, 19 Sept. 2019, www.affordablecollegesonline.org/homeless-students-guide.