Florida Gulf Coast University

Student Government

Senate 2009-2010

Resolution #

Title: Resolution calling ARAMARK Corporation to work in partnership with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

Date Introduced:

WHEREAS, all food service available on campus is contracted through the ARAMARK Corporation, including all on-campus dining facilities at which students use their meal plans; and,

WHEREAS, From October through June, Florida produces virtually all tomatoes grown in the U.S.(1), these tomatoes being supplied to Florida Gulf Coast University in on-campus dining facilities; and,

WHEREAS, ARAMARK "strive[s] to offer clients and customers fresh whole foods that are raised, grown, harvested, and produced locally and in a sustainable manner whenever possible… [and] with the utmost integrity and according to the highest ethical standards;"(2) and,

WHEREAS, today Florida tomato pickers in Immokalee make an average of $0.45 cents per 32-lb bucket of tomatoes, and must pick nearly 2.5 tons of tomatoes to earn minimum wage for a 10-hour day(3); and,

WHEREAS, the CIW represents the interest of Florida's tomato pickers and has negotiated successfully with Yum Brands (parent company of Taco Bell, Pizza Hut and others), McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, Whole Foods Market, Bon Appetit Management Company and COMPASS Group- the former two being leading food service contractors and ARAMARK competitors –to directly improve wages and working conditions in these companies' tomato supply chains(3); and,

WHEREAS, the ARAMARK Corporation and the CIW have held sparse initial conversations that have not led to a mutually beneficial solution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Body of Florida Gulf Coast University urges meaningful dialogue between ARAMARK and CIW, resulting in negotiating terms for ARAMARK working in partnership and cooperation with the CIW to directly improve Florida tomato pickers' wages, and together with the CIW, implement an enforceable, human rights-based Code of Conduct for its tomato supply chain; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees; the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education; Florida Gulf Coast University Food Service Committee; the Office of the President of Florida Gulf Coast University; the University of Florida ARAMARK Corporate Office; the CIW; the SFA; Joseph Neubauer, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ARAMARK; Robert Dennill, Associate Vice President for Social Responsibility, ARAMARK; and Karen Cutler, ARAMARK Corporate Communications.

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SPONSORS: Senator Rosa Mendoza and Senator Clarissa Tuazon

Vote: Yes_____ No_____ Abstain_____

Caroline Decaire, Senate President
Date