



BOARD BILL 3.167

An Act to Fund the Food Pantry Grab and Go Bag Program

A.S.U.W.

125th Session

Sponsored by Erick Jacobsen, *Speaker of the ASUW Senate.*

Co-sponsored by Khushi Loomba, *ASUW Director of Finance and Budget.*

Recommended by the ASUW Finance and Budget Committee.

1 **WHEREAS** the UW Food Pantry is a student-managed, student-staffed
2 program serving UW students (95.3% of visitors), staff (4.3% of
3 visitors), and faculty (0.3% of visitors) experiencing food
4 insecurity, offering shelf stable products, UW Farm organic
5 produce, ready-to-eat items from campus dining locations, and
6 hygiene products at no cost to visitors once per week for 2-3
7 days' worth of food items in Poplar Hall 210 [1]; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Food Pantry has broken its own visitation records
9 year after year, with 642 average weekly visitors and a weekly
10 record of 764 visitors in Fall 2025 [2], indicating growing need
11 for this service; and

12 **WHEREAS** a 2019 UW Study found that roughly 20% of UW students
13 experience food insecurity, which has been exacerbated by budget
14 cuts to federal programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition
15 Assistance Program [2]; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Services and Activities Fee Committee has granted
17 the maximum allowed increase to the Food Pantry budget in Fiscal
18 Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027, partially to ensure long-term
19 stability and growth with a full-time permanent staff member,
20 efforts which ASUW has supported but which strain the resources
21 SAF has been able to allocate to the Pantry [2][3]; and

22 **WHEREAS** one program which could not be covered by the SAF
23 request due to reaching the maximum increase allowance is the
24 Grab-and-Go Bag Program, and its associated Birthday Bag program
25 [4]; and

26 **WHEREAS** the Grab-and-Go Bag program would allow for 50 visitors
27 per week to receive fully packed bags during scheduled time
28 slots in place of regular, in-person shopping to access the Food
29 Pantry's resources without waiting in lines or spending time
30 picking out their chosen items [4]; and

31 **WHEREAS** this increases the accessibility of the Food Pantry for
32 people with disabilities or other support needs, people with
33 limited schedules such as medical students and staff, and people
34 who fear for their safety due to immigration status [4]; and

35 **WHEREAS** the associated Birthday Bag program seeks to prevent
36 students, staff, and faculty experiencing food insecurity to
37 miss out on birthday celebrations by providing 150 birthday bags
38 per quarter, available during visitors' birthday month [5]; and

39 **WHEREAS** this increases the accessibility of traditional birthday
40 celebrations for students, staff, and faculty experiencing food
41 insecurity and expands Food Pantry support for these individuals
42 beyond mere survival [5]; and

43 **WHEREAS** the combined cost of running these associated programs
44 for a year under the initial model is \$20,880; and

45 **WHEREAS** SAF units may request, separately to their yearly budget
46 requests, one-time capital requests up to \$10,000.00 to support
47 pilot programs or non-renewable needs for units [4]; and

48 **WHEREAS** the Food Pantry submitted a request this year for the
49 maximum \$10,000.00 allocation to support the implementation of a
50 pilot Grab-and-Go Bag program [4]; and

51 **WHEREAS** certain stock for Grab-and-Go Bags and Birthday Bags
52 were determined to be outside the SAF's definition of capital,
53 according to the Senate's SAF liaison; and

54 **WHEREAS** the Food Pantry submitted a revised capital request to
55 the SAF Committee to cover all applicable capital line items as
56 well as additional coverage for providing diapers and hygiene
57 products to visitors [5]; and

58 **WHEREAS** without full coverage from SAF, the Food Pantry is short
59 \$19,060.00 which is necessary for the realization of this
60 program for the duration of a year, as a pilot to lay the

groundwork for continuous SAF funding as part of the regular budgetary process [Appendix A]; and

WHEREAS the ASUW is a stalwart partner of the Food Pantry in the fight against food insecurity, and it has:

1. Supported the establishment of a permanent staff position with a full allocation from the SAF [3];
2. Begun consideration of legislation and funding proposals for the Free Food Alert program, which redistributes surplus food from campus catering events to students and reduces both food waste and food insecurity [6];
3. Explored the possibility of a Food Pantry expansion into the ASUW Bean Basket, which has been put on hold due to logistical issues but has potential for the future [7]; and
4. Allocated yearly donations to the Food Pantry for the past few years, including \$10,000.00 in 2025 [8] and \$8,000.00 in 2024 [9]; and

WHEREAS the ASUW Student Food Co-operative was eliminated in the FY27 ASUW Budget [10], providing opportunities for ASUW to re-invest into new programs and food security efforts through closer partnership with the UW Food Pantry; and

WHEREAS support for the Grab-and-Go Bag program and associated Birthday Bag program will tangibly contribute to greater accessibility and safety on campus as well as greater awareness of both ASUW and the Food Pantry through mutual partnership and publicity efforts; and

WHEREAS the ASUW General Fund reserves have been historically used for many one-time projects and pilots with partners like this, such as STI Test Fest with Husky Health [11] and the 1-year fund supporting Emergency Medical Services [12];

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THAT the ASUW allocate \$19,060.00 from the General Fund to donate to the UW Food Pantry in solidarity and support of its Grab-and-Go Bag Program and associated Birthday Bag Program; and

THAT a copy of this bill be forwarded to River Elewski, Student Director of the UW Food Pantry, Chris Jaehne, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Student Life and Staff Director of the

98 UW Food Pantry, Khushi Loomba, ASUW Finance & Budget Director;
99 Anushka Julakanti, ASUW Operations Coordinator; Carrie Moore,
100 Executive Director of the Husky Union Building; Marshall
101 Traverse, Associate Director for Student Activities; and Trevor
102 Hunt, Associate Director for Finance and Business Operations.

References :

[1] [The UW Food Pantry Website](#) (2026) .

[2] [UW Food Pantry Services & Activities Fee \(SAF\) Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request](#) (2026) .

[3] [R-32-07 A Resolution to Advocate for the Establishment of a Permanent Staff Position for the UW Food Pantry](#) (2026) .

[4] [UW Food Pantry Grab and Go Program SAF Committee Limited Capital Request](#) (2026) .

[5] [Revised UW Food Pantry Grab and Go Program SAF Committee Limited Capital Request](#) (2026) .

[6] [R-32-12 A Resolution to Support the Implementation of FreeFoodAlert Under the UW Food Pantry Food Recovery Program](#) (2026) .

[7] [ASUW Senate Spring Leadership Reports](#) (2026) .

[8] [BOARD BILL 3.10 An Act to Donate \\$10,000 to the UW Food Pantry](#) (2025) .

[9] [Board Bill 3.04 An Act to Donate \\$8,000 to the UW Food Pantry](#) (2024) .

[10] [ASUW FY27 Annual Budget](#) (2026) .

[11] [Board Bill 3.15 An Act to Fund and Collaborate with Husky Health for the Fall "Get Yourself Tested" Campaign](#) (2025) .

[12] [Board Bill 3.79 A Directive to Support University of Washington Emergency Medical Services Through ASUW Funding](#) (2025) .

Appendix A:

Item	SAF Allocation	ASUW Request
Bags for Grab-and-Go, Birthday Programs	\$860.00	\$0.00
Grab-and-Go Stock	\$0.00	\$16,000.00
Cake Tins	\$600.00	\$0.00
Candles	\$360.00	\$0.00
Birthday Bag Stock	\$0.00	\$3,060.00
Diapers	\$900.00	\$0.00
Hygeine Products	\$7,000.00	\$0.00
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$9,720.00</i>	<i>\$19,060.00</i>

End.