



RESOLUTION No. 2014-15-23

AUTHORED BY: Taylor Morrison, Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Representative
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REFERRED TO: AS COUNCIL
ACTION APPROVED: May 8, 2015

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of Weekly Meatless Mondays in "The J"

WHEREAS, the Associated Students (A.S.) Council of Humboldt State University (HSU) is the single recognized voice for over 8,000 students; and,

WHEREAS, the HSU vision statement says that "we will be renowned for social and environmental responsibility and action" and that "we believe individuals must be environmentally, economically and socially responsible in the quest for viable and sustainable communities"¹; and,

WHEREAS, the University Center internally manages and operates HSU's dining services, and has an ongoing trajectory towards sustainable practices; and,

WHEREAS, Meatless Monday is a global movement (active in 36 countries)² to raise awareness about the negative impacts that diets high in meat consumption have on the environment, human health, and the well-being of animals; and,

WHEREAS, Meatless Monday is a pledge taken by individuals who wish to reduce their meat consumption for one day out of the week, and when several individuals (like an institution) opt out of eating meat it decreases the negative impacts that industrial livestock practices have on the environment, human health, and the well-being of animals; and,

WHEREAS, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations found that livestock farming is one of the largest contributors to climate change, accounting for 18% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, and a reduction in demand for these products will help reduce these high levels of emissions³; and,

WHEREAS, the United States leads the world by far in amount of meat supplied on a daily basis, with over 322 grams of meat per person per day (120 kg per year)⁴; and,

WHEREAS, meat production is extremely water-intensive, with 1 kg of grain-fed beef demanding 100,000 liters of water, and broiler chickens requiring 3,500 liters of water per 1 kg of meat, while plant-based foods such as soybeans (2,000 litres of water/1 kg of food), wheat (900 litres/kg of food), apple

¹ Office of the President, Humboldt State University. (2014). "Mission, Vision, and Values." Website. Retrieved at: <http://www2.humboldt.edu/president/vision>

² Meatless Monday. (2014). "Meatless Monday Goes Global!" Website. Retrieved at: <http://www.meatlessmonday.com/the-global-movement/>

³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2006). "Livestock's Long Shadow." Website. Retrieved at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a0701e/a0701e00.HTM>

⁴ United Nations Environment Programme. (2012). "Growing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Due to Meat Consumption." Website. Retrieved at:

http://na.unep.net/geas/getUNEPPPageWithArticleIDScript.php?article_id=92Carbon

(822 litres of water /kg of food)⁵, and potatoes (500 litres/kg of food), are more conservative in their water requirements⁶; and,

WHEREAS, water contamination due to runoff of manure from livestock and poultry farms is a cause for both public health and environmental health concerns. Water-borne bacteria, parasites, and viruses infect about 19.5 million Americans per year⁷; and,

WHEREAS, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that livestock and poultry farming are two of the primary contributors to water pollution. Bacteria, such as E-coli, Salmonella, and Giardia, are found in livestock manure and often contaminate waterways. Other contaminants such as hormones and nitrogen enter waterways as well, harming fish populations and aquatic ecosystems⁸; and,

WHEREAS, regarding human health, the youngest generation of Americans today will be the first in our nation's history with a shorter lifespan than their parents, due in part to the food they eat.⁹ Our society's diet of excessive meat consumption is not only detrimental to our health, but also increases healthcare costs because it leaves people more prone to diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and with higher risks for cancer¹⁰; and,

WHEREAS, factory farmers often neglect the welfare of animals in exchange for cost effective methods of utilizing their resources, and animals are inevitably slaughtered by means that many consider inhumane¹¹; and,

WHEREAS, Meatless Monday will help raise awareness about the impact our food choices have, and help reduce HSU's impact on the environment, human health, and the well-being of animals; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the A.S. Council of HSU recognizes the 690 student signatures collected in support for Meatless Mondays, Morgan King's letter of support from the Office of Sustainability, and the majority support received from the Resident Housing Association of HSU; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the A.S. Council supports the implementation of weekly Meatless Mondays in "The J" for breakfast, lunch, and dinner; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the A.S. Council requests that the University Center begin to implement Meatless Mondays in "The J" during the first week of the 2015-2016 fall semester and for every following Monday indefinitely; and be it further,

⁵ Cornell Chronicle. (1997). "U.S. could feed 800 million people with grain that livestock eat, Cornell ecologist advises animal scientists." Website. Retrieved at: <http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/1997/08/us-could-feed-800-million-people-grain-livestock-eat>

⁶ Sedghi, Ami. (2013). "How much water is needed to produce food and how much do we waste?" Website. Retrieved at: <http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2013/jan/10/how-much-water-food-production-waste>

⁷ Reynolds, Kelly, et al. (2008). "Risk of Waterborne Illness Via Drinking Water in the United States." Website. Retrieved at: http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-0-387-71724-1_4

⁸ United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2013). "Literature Review of Contaminants in Livestock and Poultry Manure and Implications for Water Quality." Website. Retrieved at: <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/cec/upload/Literature-Review-of-Contaminants-in-Livestock-and-Poultry-Manure-and-Implications-for-Water-Quality.pdf>

⁹ Olshansky, S. Jay, Ph. D., et al. "A Potential Decline in Life Expectancy in the United States in the 21st Century." The New England Journal of Medicine 352.11 (2005): 1138-145. Electronic article. Retrieved at: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMSr043743#t=article>

¹⁰ Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). "Obesity – At a Glance." Website. Retrieved at: <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/AAG/obesity.htm>

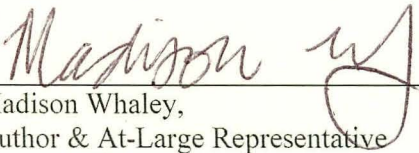
¹¹ The Humane Society of the United States. (2014). "Farm Animal Welfare." Website. Retrieved at: http://www.humanesociety.org/news/publications/whitepapers/farm_animal_welfare.html

RESOLVED, that an educational component be incorporated during the implementation of Meatless Monday by tabling in "The J," showing documentaries on campus, providing facts via informational pamphlets, and having a "Meatless Monday at HSU" Facebook page to provide a place for students to find recipes and more information; and be it further,

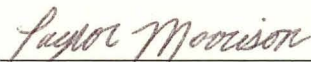
RESOLVED, that we humbly ask that Meatless Monday be advertised to incoming freshman during the Humboldt Orientation Program to get them acquainted with the campaign as it enters its first stages at HSU, and that the campaign be included in various campus media outlets such as HSU's Instagram, Facebook, Humboldt NOW, and HSU Weekly University Notices; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the A.S. Council of HSU urges all 23 campuses of the CSU system to participate in the Meatless Monday campaign as well; and be it finally,

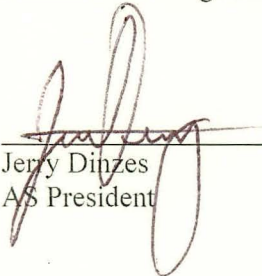
RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to, but not limited to: the University Center Board of Directors, Director of Dining Services Ron Rudebock, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, HSU President Lisa A. Rossbacher, HSU Interim Provost Jenny Zorn, HSU Administrative Vice President Joyce Lopes, HSU Student Affairs Vice President Peg Blake, Director of Sustainability TallChief Comet, Sustainability and Waste Coordinator Morgan King, HSU Resident Housing Association, Campus Center for Appropriate Technology, Waste-Reduction & Resource Awareness Program, Humboldt Orientation Program, campus and local media, the Associated Students of each of the CSU's 23 campuses, The Lost Coast Outpost, Times Standard, Mad River Union, The North Coast Journal, and KRFH 105.1 FM.




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