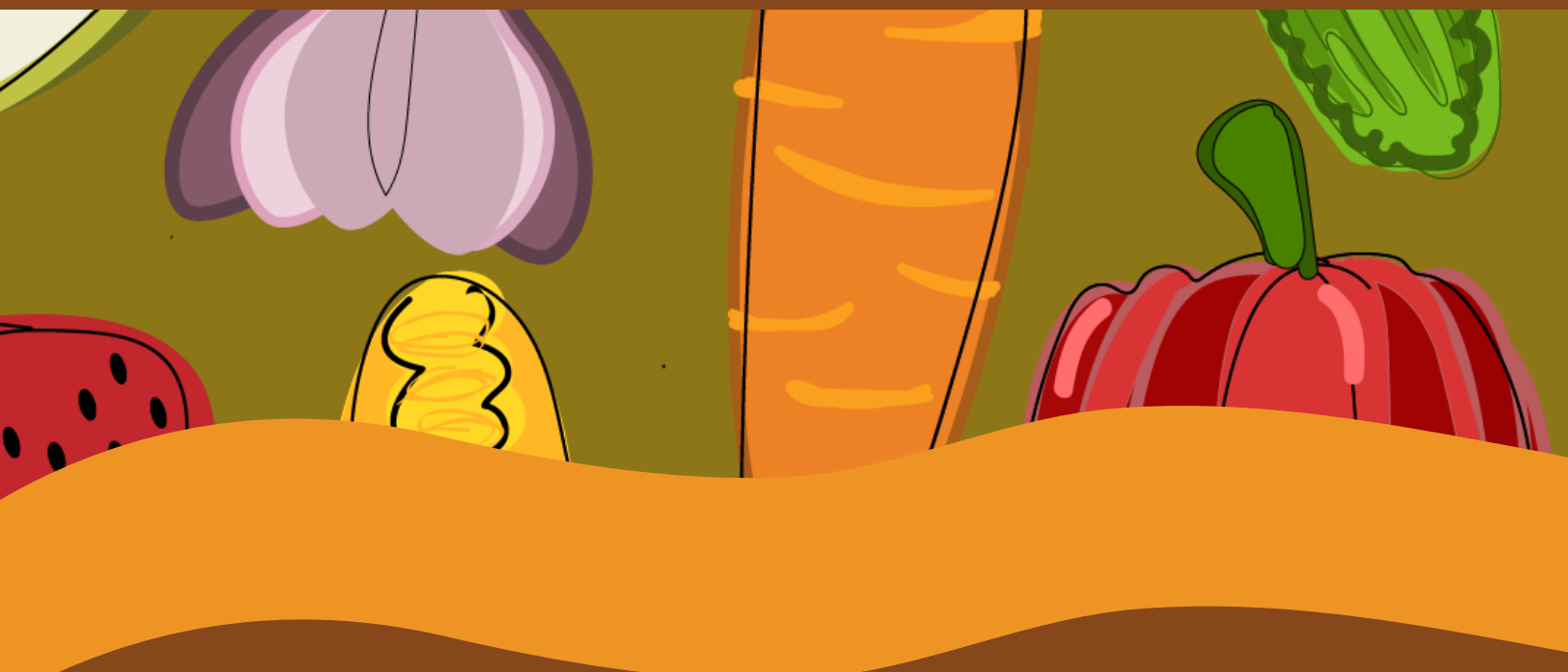




**Recommendations from the 2021  
University of Wyoming Student Food  
(In)security Summit**



By: Nicole Morshead  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rachael Budowle

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# Abstract

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**Food insecurity, defined by the USDA as a lack of consistent food to live a healthy life, affects University of Wyoming students at a rate of around 37%-45% based on recent surveys. Building from a 2020 Campus Sustainability course project, the Shepard Symposium on Social Justice hosted the UW Food (In)security Summit in April of 2021, led by the UW Food Security Taskforce and the Sustainability Coalition. The summit gathered, educated, and engaged the UW community about food insecurity to obtain feedback on current food security strategies at UW. This honors thesis focuses on interpreting the feedback provided by around 60 summit participants and developing recommendations for current and future food security efforts at UW. The data from this summit includes assessments of each strategy employed by the UW Food Security Taskforce based on anonymous rankings and responses to questions and small-group question responses and commentary. Results demonstrate that participants' top student food security strategy at UW is the implementation of a subsidized and centralized grocery store on campus. Next was "meal swipe" sharing, recovering food from on-campus events, growing food at ACRES Student Farm, and, finally, expanding food share cabinets. My project provides concrete recommendations for the UW Food Security Taskforce to promote increased UW support for equitable and dignified access to food for all students. This student-initiated approach to food security strategies and student feedback on their own needs provides an important food security model rooted in justice for other colleges and universities to adapt.**

# Introduction & Purpose

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At least 37%—and as many as 45%—of University of Wyoming (UW) students face some form of food insecurity (Budowle, et al., 2020). This staggering number prompted action to address student food insecurity at UW. The UW Food Security Taskforce, created in the fall of 2019 with collaboration between concerned students, faculty, and staff, has guided and implemented food security efforts within the UW community to contribute to the health and wellbeing of students (UW Food Security Taskforce, n.d.). This student-led coalition amplifies the voices of students and bases food security work directly on their needs. The taskforce has aided in the creation of the UW Food Share Pantry and the growth of Food Share Cabinets in various departments on campus, as well as food initiatives like Meal Swipe Sharing and Good Food Recovery. Taskforce members have effectively introduced food security as a major issue to tackle and have rallied the support of the UW Board of Trustees, student organizations, including the Sustainability Coalition and ASUW student government, and various departments across campus that deal with student support and success.

In April of 2021, the Sustainability Coalition and UW Food Security Taskforce hosted the Food (In)security Summit at the Shepard Symposium on Social Justice, a major event held each year at UW. This specific summit event educated—and, more importantly, engaged—members of the UW community, including students, faculty, staff, board members, and other relevant stakeholders about the food insecurity facing UW students. Originally scheduled for Spring 2020, the summit was rescheduled and modified as a virtual, zoom event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"At least 37%—and as many as 45%—of University of Wyoming (UW) students face some form of food insecurity"

The success of this event came about from the work of a team of students—myself included—in the Spring 2020 ENR 4600 Campus Sustainability course. In this project-based class, we comprehensively planned all aspects of the event, including developing a list of guest speakers, inviting important stakeholders, outreach and promotion to members of the UW community, event flow and schedule, major logistics and technology needs, and a facilitation and feedback-gathering approach. Sustainability Coalition leaders, with the help of a professional facilitator, implemented the work initiated by this student project group from the spring 2020 course.

With over 60 attending members, the UW Food (In)security Summit was a major success. People in attendance included First Lady Gordon of Wyoming, UW President Ed Siedel, speakers from the Colorado State University (CSU) Rams Against Hunger program, and UW Food Security Taskforce members as speakers, along with audience members including UW Board of Trustees members, Sustainability Coalition leaders and members, other taskforce members, and many other UW and local community members interested in student food security. More specifically, the event engaged members of the UW community about what food insecurity is, food insecurity rates on campus, and the UW Food Security Taskforce's approach and strategies to addressing food security. These strategies include (1) growing fresh food through the ACRES student farm, (2) food share cabinets around campus, (3) a central food pantry on campus/ potential grocery store, (4) good food recovery, and (5) meal swipe sharing.

In the second half of the summit, the facilitator divided people into student-facilitated Zoom breakout rooms based on their interest in these five interrelated food security strategies. Summit attendees anonymously ranked each strategy based on perceived importance and then commented on which seemed the most "compelling and impactful." Students then facilitated discussions about why attendees thought the strategy was an effective idea, any potential challenges, and overall commentary on each strategy.

#### 5 Food Security Strategies

1. Growing fresh food with ACRES student farm
2. Food share cabinets around campus
3. A central food pantry on campus/potential grocery store
4. Good food recovery
5. Meal swipe sharing

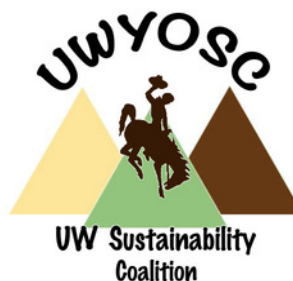
Overall, the summit and this approach sought input from the UW community, particularly students, to better understand their food security needs and desires, including which specific strategies are most valuable and how to improve them. This feedback was important to help develop strategies for the future. The purpose of this Honors thesis capstone research is to analyze the data emerging from the UW Food (In)security Summit to better support the UW Food Security Taskforce to pursue continued student food security goals and more effectively target students' needs and priorities. More broadly, that work aims to ensure that every UW student has equitable and dignified access to food resources on campus.

**The results of this report will support existing campus food security strategies and the implementation of new strategies, such as the addition of a wholesale and subsidized grocery store on the UW Campus. The UW Food Security Taskforce, whose mission is to “to end student food insecurity at UW through a range of interrelated strategies...to ensure that every Poke is nourished,” will receive this report to help guide future food security endeavors and carry out its mission and values (Taskforce Guidelines, n.d.). Specifically, this report supports the UW Food Security Taskforce value of “Amplifying students’ and other constituents’ voices and perspectives, as those affected by food insecurity, in order to move toward food justice” (Taskforce Guidelines, n.d.).**

## *Positionality*

As a current senior at the UW, I have engaged in important sustainability work to help improve this campus for everyone who attends and works here. I am an Environmental Systems Science and an Environment and Natural Resources double major with minors in Sustainability, Honors, and Spanish. This emphasis on environmental work and sustainability through my coursework has contributed to my passion and desire to help implement continued food security efforts at the UW.

The Campus Sustainability course I took in the spring of 2020 began my interest and involvement in the issue of food insecurity. In this project-based course, I selected the UW Food (In)security Summit as my semester-long project with a group of three other students. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and we were unable to have the summit in person, we implemented a detailed and concrete plan for executing the summit at a future date. When the ability to hold the summit over zoom came to fruition in the spring of 2021 under the leadership of the Sustainability Coalition and UW Food Security Taskforce, I participated in helping to facilitate this event as a leader-in-training for the Sustainability Coalition, for which I am now a co-leader and intern. This allowed me to see my project, originally designed for 2020, through to completion. I contributed to the planning and logistics of this Zoom iteration of the summit, and I helped take notes in small breakout rooms during the actual event. Now, I co-coordinate the UW Food Security Taskforce on behalf of the Sustainability Coalition. This work is a culmination of my undergraduate work surrounding food security through my Sustainability Coalition and UW Food Security Taskforce positions as well as the completion of my UW Food (In)security Summit project in the spring of 2022. I believe it is important to complete this project to help leave a lasting impact on UW and provide information that will further food security long after I graduate.



# Background

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According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), food insecurity can be categorized into four levels (USDA, 2022):

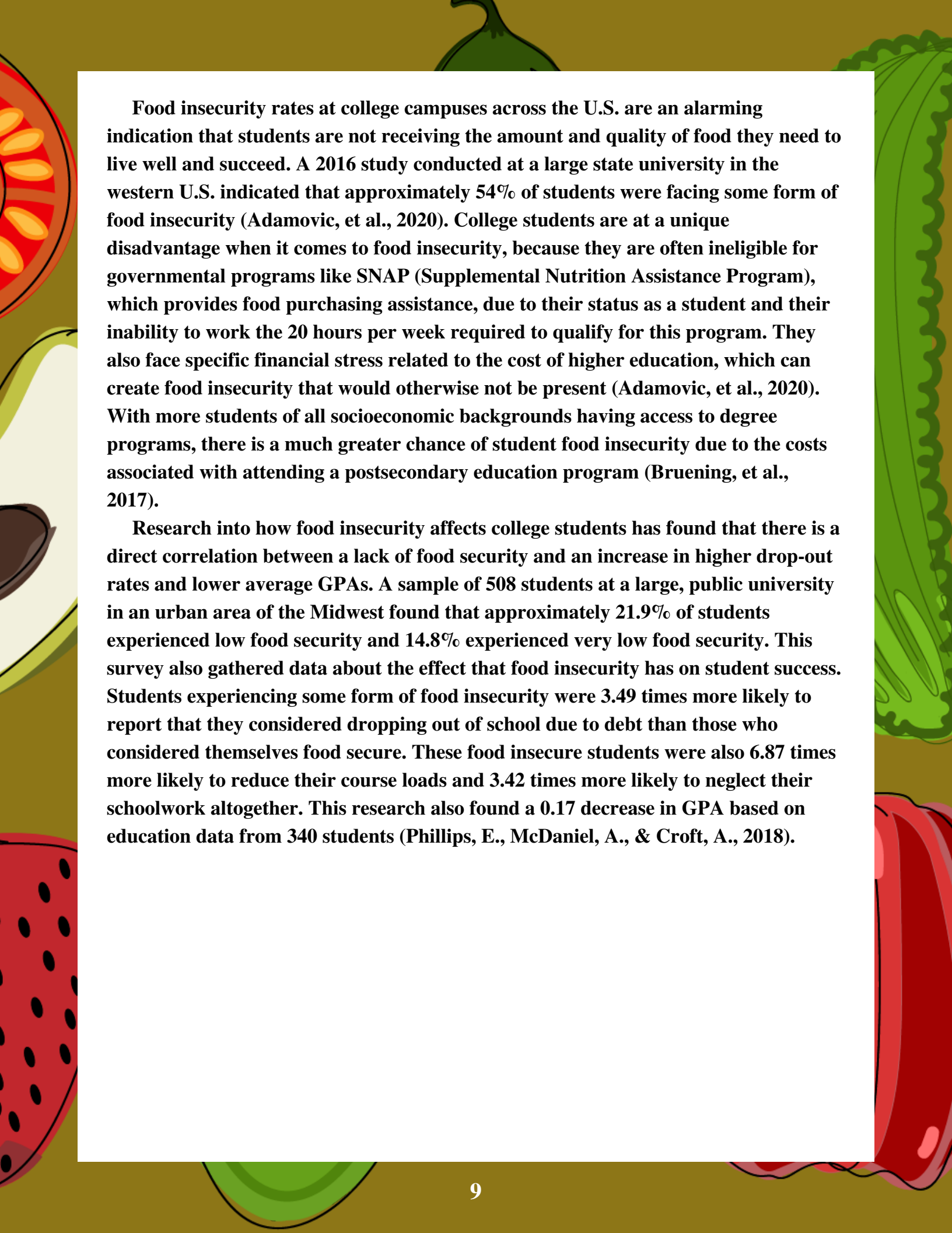
- **High food security:** no evidence of barriers involving access to food.
- **Marginal food security:** stress involving food quality and quantity within a household, but no evidence of change in food intake or diet.
- **Low food security:** a decrease in variety, quality, and preference for food but no decrease in actual food intake.
- **Very low food security:** indicators of decreased food intake and disruption in eating.

In 2020, USDA studies found that approximately 10.5% of households in the United States are food insecure (Coleman-Jensen, A., et al., 2021). Of these food-insecure households, many characteristics indicate various aspects of food insecurity. A great majority of households who have low food security or very low food security are worried about food running out, bought food that did not last, and could not afford balanced meals. Guidelines provided by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN define food security through four factors, are defined below in Table 1 (FAO Food Security Programme, 2008):

**Table 1. UN Four Factor Food Security Definition**

Physical availability of food	This involves the food that is accessible based on supply of food production, stock, and trade.
Economic and physical access to food	The actual income at the household level in relation to the market and prices.
Food utilization	The nutritional quality of food and how the body consumes and processes it. This can involve how food is prepared, how diverse a diet is, how the food is distributed within the household, etc.
Stability of the above three dimensions over time	A pattern of inadequate food intake based on the three factors above indicates a level of food insecurity.





**Food insecurity rates at college campuses across the U.S. are an alarming indication that students are not receiving the amount and quality of food they need to live well and succeed. A 2016 study conducted at a large state university in the western U.S. indicated that approximately 54% of students were facing some form of food insecurity (Adamovic, et al., 2020). College students are at a unique disadvantage when it comes to food insecurity, because they are often ineligible for governmental programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), which provides food purchasing assistance, due to their status as a student and their inability to work the 20 hours per week required to qualify for this program. They also face specific financial stress related to the cost of higher education, which can create food insecurity that would otherwise not be present (Adamovic, et al., 2020). With more students of all socioeconomic backgrounds having access to degree programs, there is a much greater chance of student food insecurity due to the costs associated with attending a postsecondary education program (Bruening, et al., 2017).**

**Research into how food insecurity affects college students has found that there is a direct correlation between a lack of food security and an increase in higher drop-out rates and lower average GPAs. A sample of 508 students at a large, public university in an urban area of the Midwest found that approximately 21.9% of students experienced low food security and 14.8% experienced very low food security. This survey also gathered data about the effect that food insecurity has on student success. Students experiencing some form of food insecurity were 3.49 times more likely to report that they considered dropping out of school due to debt than those who considered themselves food secure. These food insecure students were also 6.87 times more likely to reduce their course loads and 3.42 times more likely to neglect their schoolwork altogether. This research also found a 0.17 decrease in GPA based on education data from 340 students (Phillips, E., McDaniel, A., & Croft, A., 2018).**

## *UW Contextual Background*

In 2017, a survey conducted at UW found that approximately 37% of undergraduate UW students face some form of food insecurity (Elder, 2018). This prompted food security action on campus and led to the implementation of UW's first food share cabinet at the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources in the Bim Kendall House. From there in the fall of 2019, ASUW formally declared food insecurity as an issue on campus through resolution #2670, which states:

**“THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government recognizes the need for action by the UW's Upper Administration to address the food insecurity issue on campus, including action by the Office of the President and the Board of Trustees; and, THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the previously mentioned groups seriously investigate and consider solutions including, but not limited to, a left-over food notification system, shared swipe system, and a centralized food pantry.”**

In response, a coalition of students, faculty, and staff formed the UW Food Security Taskforce to tackle these major food security issues facing the UW community. Through ASUW, various donors, and other internal funding sources—plus taskforce members' substantial volunteered service time—the taskforce has made substantial strides in just a few years to implement important food security solutions to ensure that every student has dignified and equal access to food on campus through the aforementioned five interrelated strategies to mitigate food insecurity on campus.

In the Spring of 2020, researchers at UW distributed a new survey to students and found more in-depth information about food insecurity including demographics, student status, ranked food access resources, and important comments related to food security issues faced by UW students. Over 1,328 students responded to this survey, which equates to an approximately 11% response rate, and found that 46.7% of respondents are facing some form of food insecurity. This statistic is far higher than the previous 2017 results. It also revealed a disproportionate impact on students of color, LGBTQIA+ students, and international students. This survey also asked respondents to rank the previously mentioned strategies. Based on this survey, it found that a campus grocery store has the highest ranking of all the five interrelated food security strategies (Schinkel et al, 2020.). These findings have guided the task force's work and provided a basis for feedback gathering at the UW Food

(In)security Summit. Table 2 describes each strategy in further detail.

**Table 2. Five Interrelated Food Security Strategies**

	How it Works	Brief History	Other Universities Doing This
<b>Growing Food Through ACRES Student Farm</b>	<p>UW’s ACRES 1.8-acre sustainable vegetable student farm provides CSA (community supported agriculture) Shares program for food insecure students (UW ACRES, n.d.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA Shares pilot program provides up to 10 students with the opportunity to identify as food insecure, apply, and sign-up to receive weekly bags of produce throughout summer 2021 growing season</li> <li>• ACRES directly provides produce to the UW Food Share Pantry and food cabinets around campus on a limited basis (UW ACRES, n.d.).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU has a 15-acre, year-round farm that provides organic produce to the local community (MSU, n.d.).</li> <li>• Produce goes to the dining halls, wholesale, and an on-campus food stand (MSU, n.d.).</li> </ul>
<b>Meal Swipe Sharing</b>	<p>This program allows students with meal plans to share unused meals with students who are food insecure. Students can apply and receive meals to use within the dining hall. The CSU Swipe Out Hunger program</p>	<p>The Meal Swipe Sharing program at UW, piloted in 2021 at UW Washakie Dining Center, has helped serve 129 students with about 4,159 meal swipes allocated and 1,013 meal swipes shared according to a report from November 2021. Previous student leaders developed an</p>	<p>The first university to implement this type of program was UCLA in 2010 when a group of students recognized the need for food security efforts on campus and created this program in response to these needs (Swipe Out Hunger, n.d.). Many universities have also implemented this program and altered it to fit their students’ food needs.</p>

	<p>created the foundation on which the Meal Swipe Sharing program was based (Rams Against Hunger, n.d.).</p>	<p>application process to ID students as food insecure while also ensuring dignity. Students apply, and if accepted, receive four meals per student per week. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis (Meal Swipe Sharing, n.d.).</p>	<p>CSU, in conjunction with their food security program Rams Against Hunger, gathers meals donated from students and includes meals from their dining services to provide to students (Rams Against Hunger, n.d.).</p>
<p><b>Good Food Recovery</b></p>	<p>This program allows students to sign up and receive alerts for UW events with extra food. Students bring their own clean container 30 minutes before an event ends on a first-come, first-served basis. These students can take any amount of food they would like. This prevents wasted food and provides students with good food that would otherwise go to the landfill (UW Food Security Taskforce, 2022).</p>	<p>UW Risk management approved a food safety waiver in the fall of 2021. This waiver removes food illness risk from the university and ensures no one at the university is liable for any food related incidents. Though events have been few and far between due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the UW Food Security Taskforce plans to pilot this program with the support of UW Catering in spring 2022 at events of a variety of sizes.</p>	<p>CSU and many other campuses have created alert systems to allow students to access any extra food left at events (Rams Against Hunger, n.d.). Harvard University Dining Services (HUDS) has a food donation program which provides over 2,000 meals to families in the community directly from dining services (Harvard University, n.d.).</p>
<p><b>Food Share Cabinets</b></p>	<p>Food share cabinets are a bottom-up food security strategy, whereby academic or administrative units and student organizations host cabinets in their buildings to directly share food with their student populations. Signage and outreach allow students to know this is available for them. These cabinets stay stocked with a variety of</p>	<p>The first food share cabinet—and first food security strategy at UW—at the Haub School’s Bim Kendall House in 2017 has now led to the introduction of 11 food share cabinets located around campus. The Sustainability Coalition applied and received funding for supporting additional food share cabinets in 2019. These cabinets include:</p>	<p>Virginia Commonwealth University has installed five “Little Ram” Pantries across its Monroe Park Campus to provide shelf stable food goods and toiletries (McNeill, 2021).</p>

	<p>shelf-stable food so students can conveniently gain discreet access to these resources (Food Share Cabinet Toolkit, 2019).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beta House</li> <li>• Corbett building</li> <li>• Cheney Center</li> <li>• UW Apartments</li> <li>• Haub School</li> <li>• ASUW Demo Cabinet</li> <li>• SALivation Station</li> <li>• Coe Library</li> <li>• Biological Sciences</li> <li>• Hoyt Hall</li> <li>• Native American Education, Research, and Cultural Center</li> </ul> <p>COVID-19 disrupted use of these cabinets, but they continue to open as the university re-opens (UW Food Security Taskforce, 2022).</p>	
<p><b>Food Share Pantry</b></p>	<p>The UW Food Share Pantry is a space on campus, located in Knight Hall that provides food to students, faculty, and staff. Visitors swipe their UW campus ID and choose the foods they would like to receive. The food then gets put into a bag and weighed so the food pantry can determine how much food is taken. They also provide toiletry items. This is funded through donations and other monetary resources from the university (UWFSP, n.d.)</p>	<p>The UW Food Share Pantry opened in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which necessitated aggregating materials from the existing food share cabinets (see further details about this strategy below). This food resource has found a permanent and centralized place on campus that enables students to fulfill their food needs at no cost and with no questions asked. Students do not have to express a need to access these resources which reduces stigma surrounding food insecurity (Budowle, et al., 2020).</p>	<p>Laramie County Community College (LCCC) received \$25,000 from Western States Bank to start their own food pantry which allowed LCCC students to access this pantry around 656 times in 2018 (LCCC, n.d.). Utah State University’s Student Nutrition Access Center (SNAC) has an on-campus food pantry that provides students with food and personal items once a week (USU, n.d.).</p>

**Planning for a Campus Grocery Store**

As demonstrated by the 2020 student food security survey (Schinkel et al., 2020), students have voiced support for a centralized grocery store on campus— either standalone or blended with the pantry —that could conveniently provide subsidized, wholesale, and/or at-cost food to students. This grocery store has the potential to be a standalone entity or integrated into the Food Share Pantry.

The need for a grocery store on campus came out of a survey that emerged from the Food Health & Justice course in 2019. From there this idea was examined at the Food (In)security Summit. This determined that a campus grocery store is something that many students, faculty, and staff would like to see as a food security strategy on campus. Currently in the spring 2022 ENR 4600/5600 Campus Sustainability course, students are scoping details and examining what other universities are doing around campus grocery stores to propose and approach to this strategy.

Anabel’s Grocery at Cornell University is a student-run grocery store on campus that provides students affordable, fresh food (Anabel’s Grocery, n.d.). They have a corporate sponsorship with Wegman’s that allows them to sell produce at or below its market food price. They also do community outreach through community dinners that provide free meals for students (Anabel’s Grocery, n.d.).

# Methods

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## *Kinds of Stakeholders*

**While this summit was open to the entire community at UW and within Laramie, we strategically chose to invite stakeholders who play a major role on campus and prominent speakers who are a major part of food security. The list of stakeholders included:**

UW President

UW Board of Trustees  
Members

Deans of UW Colleges

Dean of Students

Vice President of Student  
Affairs

Vice Provost of  
Undergraduate Education

UW Chief Diversity Officer

UW Foundation Members

Sustainability Coalition  
members

ASUW student government  
members

UW Food  
Security  
Taskforce  
members

Haub School students,  
faculty, and staff

Other  
important  
Food Security  
entities

Nutrition and Health  
students, faculty, and staff

## *Large Group Survey*

The summit collected quantitative and qualitative data that assist in showing the clear need for certain food security strategies at UW. Facilitators for the event, which included students of the Sustainability Coalition, members of the UW Food Security Taskforce, and a professional facilitator collected brief survey data including comments and rankings of various food security strategies from summit attendees. Menti, an online survey program, provided a large, anonymous group survey to attendees (with a link shared via zoom) and asked them to rank each strategy on a scale of 1 to 10 from least compelling to most compelling.

After attendees ranked these results and provided anonymous commentary, they then responded to specific questions about each strategy to share their perspectives about each. These questions included:

- What do you like about this idea? What makes it a good fit for UW?
- What challenges do you foresee with this strategy? What barriers can you imagine? What wouldn't work?
- How might we support this strategy? What resources are available or could be tapped to help?

Then, attendees ranked these strategies providing a quantified measure of the need and desire for certain strategies.

## *Breakout Group Sessions*

Facilitators also provided summit attendees with two rounds of strategy-specific breakout rooms where they could choose which food security strategies they felt most passionate about and discuss them in more detail. We allocated about 30 minutes to each breakout room , which provided about an hour for facilitated discussion. Facilitators asked open questions to the small group about why people provided survey responses and the feedback they had for each strategy. For each breakout room, these facilitators followed the guidelines outlined in Table 3. Facilitators then recorded this information in notetaking guides for reference.



**Table 3. Breakout Room Facilitation Guidelines**

Time	Content	Details	Links/Notes
5 min	<u>Introductions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce yourself including your name, your role in the taskforce, and why you got involved.</li> <li>• Have participants introduce themselves including their name, their role (student, job, etc.), and why they're interested in the topic.</li> </ul>	
15-23 minutes <i>(15 min saves time for the other ??s)</i>	Review community feedback	<p>As a group, look at what the whole group had to say in the Menti.</p> <p>For each question on the Menti, ask participants to read what's there and then ask them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What stands out to you from the responses? What common ideas/themes do you notice? What resonates with you?</li> <li>2. Having looked at these responses, is there anything else <u>you'd want</u> to add? Do these answers spark any new ideas for you?</li> </ol> <p>Repeat these questions for each of the relevant slides in the Menti.</p>	<p>Menti results <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p>Skip to the appropriate section for your topic.</p>
8 min <b>IF YOU HAVE TIME!</b>	Other Ideas	<p><b>If the conversation is <u>really rich</u> in the previous section, you won't have time for this. Be sure to save 2 minutes to direct folks to the next round.</b></p> <p>If you DO have more time, ask the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Is there anything else about this strategy that you want to add?</li> <li>4. What would you tell a funder/decision-maker about this idea to help convince them to support it?</li> <li>5. How might we promote this idea to students?</li> </ol>	
2 min	Closing	Thank everyone for coming. We'll close the breakout room so folks can select a new room for round 2.	

# Results

The survey results provide evidence for support from attendees of the food security strategies on campus. Figure 1. below shows how survey participants ranked each strategy based on how compelling and impactful they perceived each strategy to be.

Figure 1. Menti Results



Based on the figure, the combined food share pantry and grocery store options were the most compelling food strategies with an average of 4.2 points. Meal Swipe Sharing and Good Food Recovery are next in the order of most compelling and impactful strategies, followed by Growing Food at ACRES and Expanding Food Share Cabinets. Along with these rankings, participants provided anonymous commentary about the benefits, challenges, and support for each of these strategies. This commentary is summarized below, drawing on select quotes lightly adjusted for grammar and spelling, based on the strategy.

The tables provided below give a brief overview of selected comments from the anonymous survey that attendees completed. Table 4 below shows specific commentary for each of the questions asked about Food Share Cabinets on campus. When completing the survey, many people stated that this strategy provides access, dignity, and convenience for students on campus. Some challenges people foresaw included funding and upkeep of the cabinets as well as making this a long-term solution since it requires so much money and maintenance to keep this program running. Finally, many people stated that ways to support this strategy are to advertise more, hold fundraisers to raise money, or hire a full-time position who can manage these food security strategies on campus.

**Table 4. Food Share Cabinet Comments**

<p>What do you like about this idea? What makes it a good fit for UW?</p>	<p>What challenges do you foresee with this strategy? What barriers can you imagine? What wouldn't work?</p>	<p>How might we support this strategy? What resources are available or could be tapped to help?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Dignifying and convenient. Can be put in many different spots on campus.”</li> <li>• “I think the emphasis on privacy and ease of access for students using these pantries helps bypass some of the stigma about utilizing food resources and could play a key role in reducing food insecurity among college students specifically.”</li> <li>• “I like that it creates an atmosphere of sharing and caring between students, and not based on a status of only need.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Seems more temporary than a long-term solution.”</li> <li>• “Funding and upkeep can be a challenge, as well as expanding the program across campus.”</li> <li>• “Funding, management and maintenance of the cabinets, and accessibility to them.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Fundraisers from the RSOs or department (food drives, donations from alumni etc.)”</li> <li>• “Better communication about where/how to access. Sourcing food from an existing pantry/food bank. Having dedicated volunteers who can sort/stock cabinets.”</li> <li>• “We could support with a UW food security coordinator, A full-time position responsible for making sure the cabinets are taken care of, in addition to other strategies!”</li> </ul>

According to the commentary about Good Food Recovery in Table 5 below, this strategy provides a way to reduce food waste and take advantage of current food security efforts on campus. Students can easily participate in a program like this, and it prevents limitations that could create stigma. Many of the challenges people foresaw include food safety and legal issues surrounding the introduction of a program like this at the university and participation in this program. Some support for this strategy could include legal consultation or integration of the notification system into UW notifications to allow more people to know about this opportunity.

**Table 5. Good Food Recovery Comments**

<p>What do you like about this idea? What makes it a good fit for UW?</p>	<p>What challenges do you foresee with this strategy? What barriers can you imagine? What wouldn't work?</p>	<p>How might we support this strategy? What resources are available or could be tapped to help?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Any food waste is bad. Obviously giving it out is better than throwing it out.”</li> <li>• “This requires such minimal resources, it gets the food to people who need it, and it prevents waste.”</li> <li>• “It's immediate, and not limited to anyone really.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Food safety issues.”</li> <li>• “Legal challenges, shame as a factor for participation, etc.”</li> <li>• “Timing of students coming to pick up food, lack of people knowing about it when they host an event.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “We could [support] through app development, legal consulting.”</li> <li>• “Integrating the notification system into university notifications would be great so that everyone is notified, and it is widespread furthering opportunities.”</li> <li>• “How to scale it up and get good food for hungry people?”</li> </ul>

The support for Meal Swipe Sharing, shown in Table 6 below, involves helping students receive meal swipes that would otherwise go to waste. People stated that it was an easy way to provide access to more food resources for students and would help eliminate food waste at Washakie Dining Center. Some challenges included the long-term ability of this program to continue and not having effective communication to let students know that this program exists. Some ways to support this strategy include sharing more meals through easier donation methods and building educational foundations to promote this strategy.

**Table 6. Meal Swipe Sharing Comments**

<p>What do you like about this idea? What makes it a good fit for UW?</p>	<p>What challenges do you foresee with this strategy? What barriers can you imagine? What wouldn't work?</p>	<p>How might we support this strategy? What resources are available or could be tapped to help?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “This program is another great way to combat food insecurity while also eliminating food waste and making meal plans more cost effective.”</li> <li>• “So easy for students to help other students and if students donate unused meals its a win for everyone”</li> <li>• “Easy, anonymous, convenient”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The reliability of this method may be shaky and hard to streamline.”</li> <li>• “Challenges is not having enough of this resource. Barriers would be communicating this option to students and helping them feel good about using the resource.”</li> <li>• “Funding and marketing of this so students know about it and how to do it and donate to it”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Let us share more meals! How many can the university reasonably donate to this fund?”</li> <li>• “Education about this initiative and community building around it.”</li> <li>• “Promotion and ease of donating swipes.”</li> </ul>

Table 7 below provides more commentary on the strategy of growing food through ACRES student farm. People said that this strategy is a way to locally source food that students can directly obtain. It is a way to eat locally and create sustainable food systems at UW. Many of the challenges include a short growing season and a lack of support through funding and staff. To support this strategy, people stated that more funding or a farm manager could help improve this strategy.

**Table 7. Growing Food-ACRES Comments**

<p>What do you like about this idea? What makes it a good fit for UW?</p>	<p>What challenges do you foresee with this strategy? What barriers can you imagine? What wouldn't work?</p>	<p>How might we support this strategy? What resources are available or could be tapped to help?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “So sustainable and circular. Really love that. Plus really beautiful to have local food. Very in line with community building and eating local.”</li> <li>• “Combining the efforts of sustainable food systems in addition to food security.”</li> <li>• “Great collaboration! Love the community partnership.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Short growing season, lack of institutional support for ACRES.”</li> <li>• “Challenges might be with the ongoing leadership and continuity. Barriers might be our short growing season.”</li> <li>• “Funding, staff support, ACRES need WAY more institutional support and backing.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Provide more resources to build the program (like paid positions to run it).”</li> <li>• “Funding sources. Better club involvement. Finding ways to do educational sessions about the food grown, maybe even ways for people to come help [grow] their food at the farm?”</li> <li>• “Institutional farm manager for ACRES.”</li> </ul>

Table 8 below discusses the sentiment towards the current UW Food Share Pantry strategy and the idea of introducing a campus grocery store at UW, either separately or in combination with the pantry. As exemplified by the commentary above, many people feel that the current UW Food Share Pantry provides dignity for students, because it allows for choice and greater access. Some comments also pointed out that it is very difficult for students without vehicles to access grocery stores. Many people felt that a grocery store would provide a more long-term solution for food insecurity and would allow more choice and access to fresher, more nutritious foods. Some barriers people saw for the UW Food Share Pantry included inaccessibility and limited storage for food stock. Comments also stated that budgeting and location were some of the most pertinent barriers to implementing a campus grocery store. Resources available to support these strategies included corporate sponsorship, fundraising, and budgets from the UW Board of Trustees or the UW President.

**Table 8. Food Pantry/Grocery Store Comments**

<p>What do you like about this idea? What makes it a good fit for UW?</p>	<p>What challenges do you foresee with this strategy? What barriers can you imagine? What wouldn't work?</p>	<p>How might we support this strategy? What resources are available or could be tapped to help?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “If you are without easy transportation, campus is a food desert. Access to fresh food is very limited, and a grocery store would offer a great solution to this issue!”</li> <li>• “I think this gives the most amount of choice and ownership to the students; thus, it protects dignity.”</li> <li>• “It is the most dignifying, long-term focused solution. It is what students want most.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “I foresee budgeting challenges as well as space. Where would this campus grocery store go?”</li> <li>• “Space, construction, location, funding, accessibility, staffing, organization, etc.”</li> <li>• “Needs to be easily accessible with sufficient storage for restock items in close proximity.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Funding, corporate sponsorship, other student organizations fundraising.”</li> <li>• “Joining with resources in the community that already have good strategies and could share space/ tips etc.”</li> <li>• “Donors and University budgets from BOT/President.”</li> </ul>

# Discussion & Conclusion

The high level of attendance and overwhelming support for these strategies reveals buy-in for the Taskforce’s work and that UW stakeholders have valuable ideas to share that can help improve the wellbeing and success of students who are food insecure. While all strategies received support, the implementation of a subsidized campus grocery store received the greatest and most positive response. Among the qualitative comments from the summit were responses like “A grocery store on campus could greatly improve ease of access to food, especially to students without vehicles” and “I think this gives the most amount of choice and ownership to the students; thus, it protects dignity.” The UW Food Share Pantry and food share cabinets provide important services as demonstrated by comments such as, “The UW Food Share Pantry and cabinets provide important services demonstrated by comments such as, “Dignifying and convenient. Can be put in many different spots on campus” and “I love that it is FREE and accessible to all students. The multiple options, food recipes, it's all so good!”. However, attendees saw the incorporation of a grocery store to advance these established strategies. An established grocery store would create a more long-term solution for students on campus who do not have consistent and dignified access to food resources. This provides them with more options and more flexibility regarding where they receive their food. The store can be the cornerstone for broader food security strategies and can make more permanent food security improvements on campus.

An illustrator who attended the summit created this image that includes information about the summit discussion shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Food Security Summit Illustration



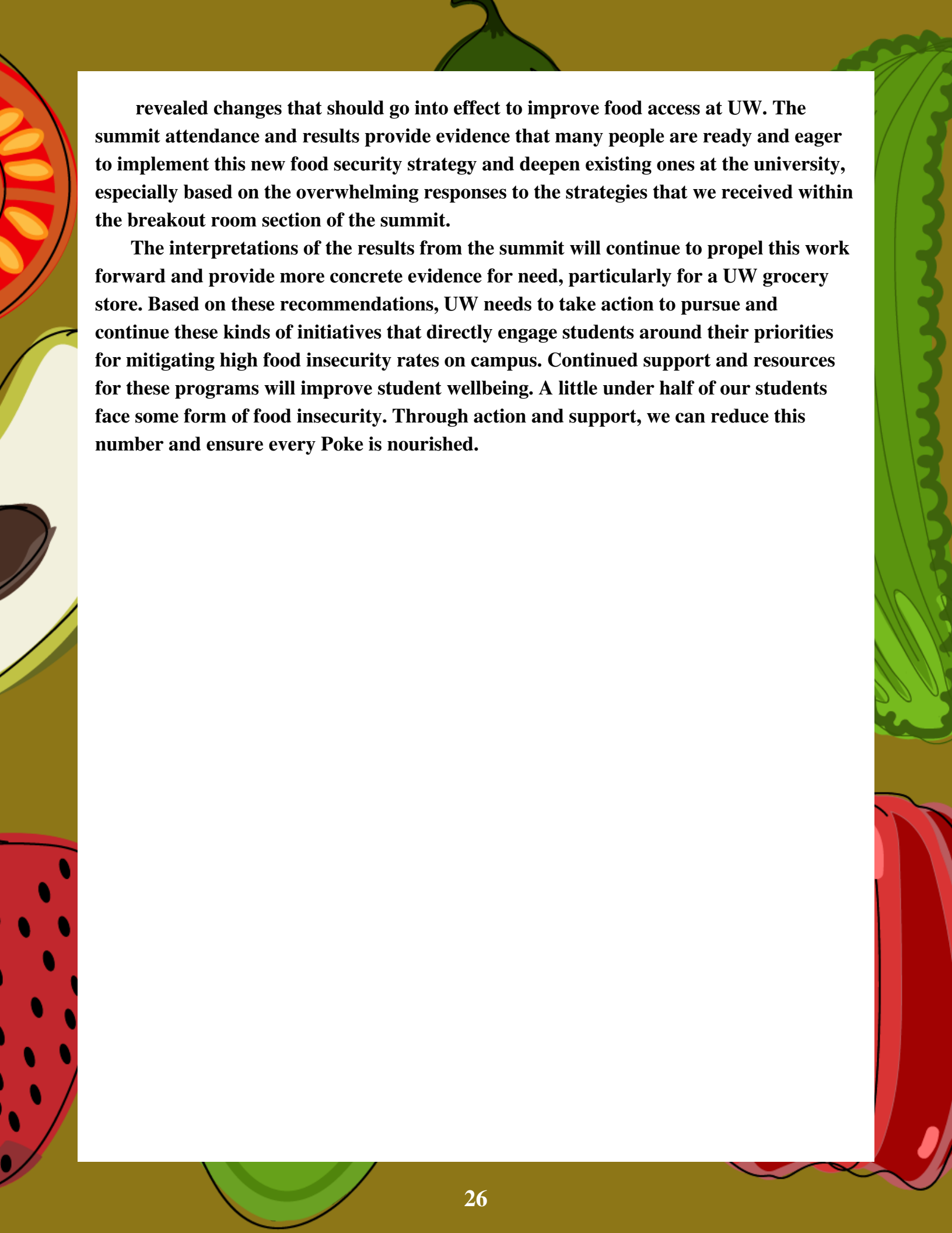


**This image provides a visual summary of the results gleaned from the summit, as well as the history leading up to the summit, the actual events of the summit, and the interrelated strategies employed by the UW Food Security Taskforce. This figure demonstrates and ties together food security efforts happening on campus. This image shows that, based on the commentary of summit, these strategies have all been well supported by the attendees and that the very positive feedback can create a greater emphasis on food security support.**

**Attendees provided concrete evidence at the UW Food (In)security Summit to suggest that the most beneficial action the University of Wyoming can take is to investigate options for a centralized campus grocery store to increase the availability and access of food to UW students. An established grocery store would create a more long-term solution for students on campus who do not have consistent and dignified access to food resources. Based on this evidence, I recommend the following next steps for the Taskforce:**

- **Secure a location to implement a grocery store on campus**
- **Develop strategies and plans to begin work on the completion of this store**
- **Collaborate with relevant groups on campus to gain support, including the UW Food Security Taskforce, the UW Board of Trustees, and Student Affairs**
- **Implement a staff position dedicated to food security coordination**
- **Develop fundraising strategies to raise money for a grocery store**
- **Consider combining a grocery store with the UW Food Share Pantry as a hybrid model**
- **Continued support, funding, and expansion for food share cabinets and the UW Food Share Pantry**
- **Pilot the Good Food Recovery app for on-campus, catered events**

**Results from the summit have already generated momentum and action for the improvement of food security at UW in the year since it occurred. Direct action has included a project within the Campus Sustainability course involving recommendations for the implementation of a campus grocery store. This project has investigated funding, location, and other logistics to make this idea possible. The results from the summit will bolster the support for this project and future UW Food Security Taskforce efforts toward the grocery store and other strategies. The UW Food (In)security Summit gathered important members of the UW community and developed constructive conversations surrounding student food security. Student attendance at the summit provided especially important commentary because they could provide firsthand experience with this issue. This incorporation of student voices helps achieve the justice model valued by the UW Food Security Taskforce.**



**revealed changes that should go into effect to improve food access at UW. The summit attendance and results provide evidence that many people are ready and eager to implement this new food security strategy and deepen existing ones at the university, especially based on the overwhelming responses to the strategies that we received within the breakout room section of the summit.**

**The interpretations of the results from the summit will continue to propel this work forward and provide more concrete evidence for need, particularly for a UW grocery store. Based on these recommendations, UW needs to take action to pursue and continue these kinds of initiatives that directly engage students around their priorities for mitigating high food insecurity rates on campus. Continued support and resources for these programs will improve student wellbeing. A little under half of our students face some form of food insecurity. Through action and support, we can reduce this number and ensure every Poke is nourished.**

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