

**1 May 2020**

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING CHARTWELLS WORKERS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS**

**RES.01.36**

**WHEREAS,** DePaul is a university driven by our Vincentian Mission which calls us to advocate and serve for all peoples and communities living on the margins; and,

**WHEREAS,** the university’s namesake, St. Vincent de Paul is quoted as saying, “The poor are your masters. You are the servant”, which is something the university should strive to live up to; and,

**WHEREAS,** SGA, through our mission to infuse Vincentian Identity into our work, seek to ground all of our initiatives in the Vincentian question: “what must be done?”;

**WHEREAS,** as such, SGA believes the answer to the question is clear: Chartwells workers which play an integral role in the affinity and connection students must be supported by the university; and,

**WHEREAS,** 40% of Americans are unable to pay for an unexpected expenditure without relying on loans from friends, family, or banking institutions[[1]](#footnote--1); and,

**WHEREAS,** unemployment benefits in Illinois are not extended to undocumented immigrants which comprise 24 percent of the immigrant population, including a significant number of Chartwells workers; and,

**WHEREAS,** Chartwells workers are paid close to $14 per hour[[2]](#footnote-0), and most are unable to qualify for unemployment benefits due to legal status; and,

**WHEREAS,** the contract between DePaul University and Chartwells for dining is set to expire in 2022[[3]](#footnote-1); and,

**WHEREAS,** Compass Group, the parent company of Chartwells, is worth $35.5 billion; and,

**WHEREAS,** Chartwells workers working at DePaul have been left with no or limited income since the university’s campuses were temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 crisis; and,

**WHEREAS,** Chartwells workers have served the DePaul community, especially students, by ensuring that dining services operate properly; and,

**WHEREAS,** The United Center Ownership, the Chicago Bulls, and the Chicago Blackhawks promised to pay their workers their original compensation through the remainder of the scheduled season[[4]](#footnote-2); and,

**WHEREAS,** Dominican University, a university with a much smaller community than DePaul University, was able to provide and assist dining workers by contributing $10,000 to their employee care fund; and,

**WHEREAS,** the CEO of Dominican University’s dining company gave up their salary and set up food pantries specifically for the dining workers; and,

**WHEREAS,** SGA believes it to be the utmost imperative for DePaul University to address the issues and demands laid out in this resolution; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the DePaul Student Government Association and DePaul Community Accountability Alliance, otherwise known as the Student Coalition, believe that the Chartwells dining workers, laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, immediately deserve their full contracted pay and benefits, to be provided by Chartwells; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that SGA further demands that DePaul University, as a large client of Chartwells and in support of its dining workers and student interest, insist that Chartwells pay its workers; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that SGA calls upon DePaul University to pay the Chartwells dining workers directly,in the case that Chartwells decides not to provide its workers with their full contracted pay and benefits; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that SGA emphasizes that DePaul take into consideration, with the highest level of scrutiny, Chartwells’ treatment of its workers during a global pandemic, especially with the contract set to expire within the next two years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that SGA places an ultimatum on DePaul University to respond directly to the Student Government Association and the DePaul Community Accountability Alliance regarding the demands laid out in this resolution.

1. U.S. Federal Reserve System, 2018, Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households. [Link.](https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/files/2018-report-economic-well-being-us-households-201905.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref--1)
2. Chicago Tribune, April 3, 2020, “‘We just got laid off out of nowhere’…” [Link.](https://www.chicagotribune.com/coronavirus/ct-coronavirus-illinois-college-dining-hall-workers-20200403-iywwdme4efcidehxy3elg3vwxm-story.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
3. 14East Magazine, April 30, 2020, “Will Chartwells Cater to Employees During Coronavirus.” [Link.](http://fourteeneastmag.com/index.php/2020/04/30/will-chartwells-cater-to-employees-during-coronavirus/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
4. Chicago Business, March 14, 2020, “Bulls, Blackhawks owners paying United Center staff for missed games.” [Link.](https://www.chicagobusiness.com/news/bulls-blackhawks-owners-paying-united-center-staff-missed-games) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)