By Jerry Evans

The story of the struggle for compulsory commons is a long and winding one, but happily, it has a happy ending.

In 1966, students who had been served food at the dormitories were faced with the prospect of having to pay for commons meals. The reason was that the question was raised whether dorms should be run on a self-sustaining basis. Unfortunately, no sizable endowment was available to provide funds for dorms, even though the existing commons system was self-sustaining. The plan to eliminate compulsory commons was met with resistance on the part of the entire student body.

In the following year, the administration realized that retaining compulsory commons would be a mistake. They were able to make a case for the commons system, and it was decided to retain compulsory commons for at least another year.

In 1969, the administration changed their minds and decided to end compulsory commons. The reasoning was that students should have the option of eating in the dormitory or in the commons. The decision was made after a survey was conducted, which showed that a majority of students preferred the dormitory meals.

In conclusion, the struggle for compulsory commons was a long and difficult one, but ultimately, it was decided to retain the system. This was a wise decision, as it allowed students to choose the type of meal they wanted to eat, and it also helped to reduce the cost of living for students.