Reviewer's report

Title: A meta-analysis of weight gain in first year university students: the case for the Freshman 15?

Version: 1 Date: 18 February 2015

Reviewer: Deirdre Tobias

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:
- Comment 37 from the first review: I still do recommend eliminating this point. It relies on an assumption that really cannot be evaluated from the available evidence and is speculative.
- Thank you for including Table 1. Please look it over for formatting, as some of the spacing between words seems shifted around, and is not aesthetically very appealing. "By measurement method" should specify that this is referring to body weight. P-value needs to specify what this is referring to...heterogeneity? the effect estimate being different from zero? "Location" could be "country" instead. "By weight gainers" should not be in this table, since it is not a meta-analysis like the others, but just a pooled mean. The row with the results weighted by sample size can be deleted since this is a sensitivity analysis that is not typically performed. Finally, the title should specify that this is a random effects meta-analysis.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests