

**UCOP Approved Draft
Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate**

May 2, 2018 at 3:00pm

University of California

(Lead: Ruben)

Thank you Chair Weber and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify today. I am Ruben E. Canedo from UC Berkeley, and I'm Tim Galarneau, from UC Santa Cruz. We co-chair the President's Global Food Initiative Basic Needs effort and have worked on the impact measurement and implementation of food security efforts across all ten University of California campuses.

(Lead: Tim)

Thank you for inviting us to share some brief comments today with the committee. For the last four years we have coordinated student food access and security efforts on behalf of the UC Office of the President with students, staff, faculty, and community partners across the state. Through the Global Food Initiative, UC has established effective systemwide and campus level food access and security student support programming, research and evaluation, and measures to advance institutionalizing best practices going forward.

Our efforts have expanded across:

- Launching or scaling up nutritious and choice-based food pantries on all campuses;
- Increasing access to food provisioning and preparation workshops and services;
- Expanding Swipe Out Hunger programs that allow UC students to donate excess meal plan dollars to students in need on all campuses;
- Establishing collaborations with state and county offices to register students for CalFresh, the State of California's nutrition assistance program;
- And enhancing financial aid communications about housing and food costs, among other support services.

(Lead: Ruben)

[Transition to Basic Needs and DEC 2017 Report Findings](#)

Federal funding lows, state funding lows, consistent increased institutional costs, and consistent increased cost of living make today's college experience the most expensive and least-supported since the creation of the Federal Pell Grant in 1972.

As work on food insecurity progressed, it became clear that food insecurity is just one element under a broader, "basic needs" framework that must take into account the unique hardships presented by the overall cost of attendance for students, including food, housing, and wellness related expenses.

In December 2017, the UC System published its largest study to date: UC Student Food and Housing Security Study¹, using a multi-factor analysis to determine the most at-risk groups and prioritize support strategies. Here are some of the major lessons we have learned from the over 60,000 undergraduate and over 6,000 graduate student participants::

- Undergraduate Food Insecurity: At present we are working to address a general student population facing 44% combined low and very-low food security.²
- Graduate Student Food Insecurity: At present 26% of Graduate Students experience food insecurity (i.e. low and very-low) during the academic year. We have developed better guidance systems for CalFresh benefit enrollment and qualification for graduate students.³
- Data from our analysis indicates that basic needs insecurity has a notable effect on academic success and achievement:
 - Among undergraduate students,
 - There is an average .3 GPA difference between students experiencing both food insecurity and homelessness, compared with students being food and housing secure

¹ <https://www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/files/food-housing-security.pdf>

² Overall: 44% of Undergraduates experience food insecurity. Single factor student demographics experiencing higher rates: 55% of low-income students, 56% of first-generation college students, 58% of Underrepresented Minority Dual factor student demographics experiencing even higher rates: 62% of Underrepresented Minority & First-Gen College, 67% of LGBT & Independent, 67% of Foster Youth & Underrepresented Minority

³ Single factor student demographics experiencing higher rates: 35% of LGBTQ, 37% of URM, 45% of students in the Humanities. Dual factor student demographics experiencing even higher rates: 45% of URM & Masters, 48% URM & Humanities, 58% of LGBTQ & Humanities

- The majority of students experiencing both food insecurity and homelessness were below a 3.00 GPA which has a direct impact in their on/off campus student employability, access to research programs, and post graduation opportunities
 - Among graduate students
 - Only 70% of those who experience food insecurity and homelessness report being on track to complete their degree on time, compared with 82% of students who are both food and housing secure.

As briefly overviewed here we continue to apply our research findings with student support service strategies.

Progress to Date

(Lead: Tim)

Research is only one of our four areas that shape our UC Basic Needs efforts. In addition to research, our efforts include campus prevention models, sustainability, and advocacy. In the last three years, UC President Napolitano has invested over \$4M to our efforts. We also received \$2.5 million in funding from the state for Hunger-Free Campus initiatives. Her investment and the collective leadership of campus and systemwide leaders have produced the following results:

- ✓ Published the largest study to date, on four-year research university campuses of student food and housing security.
- ✓ 4 campuses completed qualitative studies on food insecurity risk factors and lived experiences of students.
- ✓ 100% of UC campuses have established institutional basic needs committees.
- ✓ 100% of UC campuses have started to build their basic needs prevention models.
- ✓ 100% of UC campuses have started CalFresh application and enrollment efforts.
- ✓ 100% of UC campuses have started emergency food provision efforts.
- ✓ 75% of UC campuses have launched basic needs skills development efforts.
- ✓ 50% of UC campuses have launched Basic Needs Centers to centralize basic needs information and services.
- ✓ Contributed research and student testimonials in State Assembly Bill processes for: AB 1930, 1747, 214, 453.
- ✓ Contributed research, support, and student testimonials in support of a \$7.5 million state budget allocation for Hunger Free Campuses for FY 18.

Our advocacy resulted in an allocation of \$2.5M in the current year budget for the UC System. Each campus was awarded equal allocations of \$250,000 with programmatic focus and outcome goals. At each campus, funding was directed at four specific areas: emergency meals, CalFresh outreach and enrollment, infrastructure, and supplemental staffing support.

(Lead: Ruben)

Closing Statement:

College student basic needs insecurity is a systemic challenge. Student financial, food, and housing insecurity will not correct itself. Our research has identified key interventions to support college student basic needs. We can improve the education of middle school and high school students about personal and college finances, as well as, skills that will support their basic needs security. We can improve the onboarding and support through graduation of our student basic needs. We can improve our state funding for college students, especially given the fact that our state provides more funding per state prisoner than per state college student.

We must lead as a state, the call to reinvest in public higher education as we did during the creation of the GI Bill and the Federal Pell Grant. The generations of college students in the 1960s and 1970s could work 10 hours a week during school and 35 hours a week during summer to fully cover their total cost of attendance. Today's students, working those exact hours can only pay one-third of their total cost of attendance. There are more first-generation college students, low-income and working class students, students of color, student parents, and adult students today than ever before. Each of these intersectional identities provide experiential and generational wisdom that is essential for the innovation and improvement of our cities, counties, and state. We look forward to partnering closely with you to make our state public higher education system: basic needs secure, equitable, successful, and the global standard of excellence.