

The Regents of the University of California

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

May 21, 2015

The Committee on Educational Policy met on the above date at UCSF–Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco.

Members present: Regents Engelhorn, Gould, Kieffer, Lansing, Leong Clancy, Lozano, Reiss, and Saifuddin; Ex officio members Napolitano and Varner; Advisory members Davis, Gilly, Gorman, and Oved; Staff Advisors Acker and Coyne

In attendance: Regents De La Peña, Elliott, Makarechian, Ortiz Oakley, Pattiz, Pérez, Ruiz, Sherman, Wachter, and Zettel, Faculty Representative Hare, Secretary and Chief of Staff Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Vacca, Chief Investment Officer Bachher, Provost Dorr, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava, Executive Vice President Stobo, Senior Vice Presidents Henderson and Peacock, Vice Presidents Brown, Budil, Duckett, and Sakaki, Chancellors Block, Blumenthal, Dirks, Gillman, Hawgood, Khosla, Leland, Wilcox, and Yang, and Recording Secretary McCarthy

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. with Committee Chair Reiss presiding.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of March 18-19, 2015 were approved.

2. **INSTITUTIONALIZING FOOD SECURITY EFFORTS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

[Background material was provided to Regents in advance of the meeting, and a copy is on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Committee Chair Reiss briefly introduced the presentation. In July 2014, President Napolitano launched the UC Global Food Initiative with the goal of putting the world on a path to feed itself sustainably and nutritiously. In addition to worldwide food concerns, food insecurity exists for some students on UC campuses. The Food Access and Security Subcommittee of the Global Food Initiative had been working with students, staff, and administrators from all ten UC campuses to build the framework for a systemwide food security model. Committee Chair Reiss thanked Regent Saifuddin for her leadership on this important issue.

Vice President Sakaki introduced three co-chairs of the Global Food Initiative Food Access and Security Subcommittee: Regent Saifuddin who had worked on the issue of student food insecurity for several years, Ruben Canedo, a research and mobilization coordinator from UC Berkeley, and Tim Galarneau, a food systems specialist at UC Santa Cruz.

Regent Saifuddin recalled that during her tenure as an Associated Students of UC Senator, she and other campus leaders worked to establish the UC Berkeley Food Pantry, which saw about 1,300 unique visits in its first year. Many UC students experienced food insecurity, although it was often an unrecognized problem. In the general population, 47 million Americans were food insecure, so this problem was not UC-specific. According to the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES), there had been an increase in the past two years in the number of UC undergraduate students who said they had skipped a meal to save money. A Global Food Initiative subcommittee would conduct a survey of food insecurity across all ten UC campuses; six campuses were performing their own surveys; and four UC campuses would conduct a survey with the American College Health Association.

Mr. Canedo reported that the food portion of the cost of attendance used systemwide by the University to calculate student aid is only \$264 per month. Mr. Galarneau commented that the Global Food Initiative had helped foster communication among students, staff, and faculty across the UC system about students' food needs and the challenges in filling those needs. The first annual California Higher Education Food Summit was held in January at UC Santa Barbara. Establishment of community food development centers would be important, as various UC campuses currently offered disparate services. Research data were lacking and would be supplemented by the work of another Global Food Initiative subcommittee; those data would inform future actions.

Regent Saifuddin commented that the values that underlie this work were to eradicate the stigma around poverty and homelessness. Students' feeling of shame often prevented them from disclosing their food insecurity. No student should have to choose between buying a textbook or buying a meal. The University must be critical of its current processes in order to improve them. Admitting that UC had hungry students on its campuses was uncomfortable, but must be done in order to consider ways to address the problem. Cross-functional partnerships must be established.

Mr. Canedo said this work would continue. Regarding financial aid on a systemwide level, the possibility of updating and expanding data collection regarding the cost of attendance and repackaging student aid to prioritize basic student needs such as housing and food security would be considered. At the campus level, it would be desirable to institutionalize the food development centers with leadership that coordinated ongoing efforts. Executive directors of the food development centers could work as a committee to centralize and coordinate efforts. Campus land should be maximized to invest in teaching and harvesting spaces that could educate students and inform the food system. Private and public business partnerships should be used. Guiding principles would be healthiness, sustainability, and affordability.

Regent Saifuddin observed that the subcommittee's vision for the future would require collective responsibility to alleviate homelessness, hunger, and malnourishment from the UC system. Food and nutritional security should be guaranteed to all UC students. This effort represented a unique opportunity for UC to become a national leader in developing a model for preventing student food insecurity.

Committee Chair Reiss expressed the Regents' support for these efforts. Regent Kieffer asked if data were available indicating how long student food insecurity had existed and if it had changed over time. Regent Saifuddin said that UCUES data back to 2010 were available along with more recent data from campus food pantries. Surveys being conducted as part of the Global Food Initiative would also provide more information. Mr. Canedo added that the problem had often been invisible, although a 2009 report from UC Berkeley's student health center had triggered action on that campus, when the report indicated that some students' problems were exacerbated by hunger and malnourishment. It could be extremely embarrassing for a student to admit food insecurity. Staff had not been trained to ask students about food insecurity. Cost of attendance surveys asked students how much they spent on food, rather than how much they needed for food.

Regent Ruiz observed that there were many opportunities to alleviate food insecurity. He expressed his willingness to help with this important effort.

Regent-designate Oved expressed support for this discussion of these issues that had gone unnoticed for too long.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff