

Office of the President

TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY:

DISCUSSION ITEM

For Meeting of May 21, 2015

INSTITUTIONALIZING FOOD SECURITY EFFORTS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

In July 2014, President Napolitano launched the UC Global Food Initiative (GFI) with the goal to put the world on a path to “sustainably and nutritionally feed itself.” As the University of California looks in its own backyard, we find that self-reported student hunger has been on the rise over the past five years.

Since 2010, the University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey has been capturing data on “Skipped Meals to Save Money” from undergraduate students. The most recent results from the 2014 survey demonstrate that about one in four UC students are experiencing varied levels of food insecurity. In response to student hunger across the system, student-led emergency relief programs such as food pantries, voucher programs, and harvest days have attempted to mitigate food insecurity among the student population.

The GFI Food Access and Security Subcommittee has been working with students, staff, and administrators from all ten UC campuses to build the framework for a systemwide food security model. This past January, the Food Access and Security Subcommittee, in collaboration with UC Santa Barbara’s Summit Planning Committee, hosted the first ever California Higher Education Food Summit. The Summit attracted attendees from the UC, California State University, community colleges, and private schools to provide a platform for the discussion of issues surrounding food insecurity, farmworkers’ rights, and sustainability on college campuses. In conjunction with the Summit, the Food Access and Security Subcommittee met to develop systemwide recommendations for the second phase of the GFI.

The goals of this presentation are to (1) provide context to the efforts around student food insecurity and (2) propose a systemwide model to eradicate hunger and malnutrition on our campuses. The University of California is committed to ensuring that every student who enters our campuses never has to choose between purchasing a textbook and purchasing a meal. Regent Saifuddin and Vice President Sakaki will present information on food security efforts across the UC.