Approved by Committee on 12.3.2021

UCLA Basic Needs Committee Meeting #1 Fall 2021
Fall 2021: Friday, October 15, 2021
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM PDT
Student Activities Center Room 120P

I. Welcome by the UCLA Basic Needs Committee Chair
   a. During the pandemic, the campus was reliable in providing a host of services and programs to meet unprecedented need by students and staff alike. Incredible network of Basic Needs providers who made sure everything happened:
      i. Access to emergency housing (housing insecure, those who had a bout with COVID, or family was quarantining)
      ii. Online Food Closet Food Card Program served thousands of students through each session it was offered
         1. Huge benchmark reached: 40% grad turnout
      iii. Food Box Distribution Programs
         1. Students, staff, faculty, retirees and other UCLA community members were supported through boxes for Turkey Day, Holiday, Spring, and Summer sessions
      iv. Bruin Meals Program collaboration with 580 Café, ASUCLA, Residential Life served hundreds of students from various populations including transfer students, students with dependents, and graduate/professional school students
      v. Bike Program offered through the Semel Healthy Campus Initiative (HCI) Center and Residential Life
         1. Relocate and offer free bikes to students in university housing
vi. Semel HCI Edible Garden project
   1. Received grant funding to revitalize garden plots in university housing
   2. Provided opportunity for students to learn how to garden, while also offering edible produce for them and their family

vii. Economic Crisis Response Team (ECRT)
   1. Meeting the needs of students in crisis and those facing extreme financial burdens (*more on the number of students served and funding disbursed in their section below*)

viii. FITTED Eats
   1. Facilitating students’ abilities to learn how to recreate affordable, nutritiously balanced meals on their own

ix. BruinHub
   1. Students and concerned staff on campus worked together the past several years to address the needs of commuter and housing insecure students
   2. Led to research, which then led to the development of a proposal to fund a commuter hub on campus

x. ASUCLA EBT Implementation Project
   1. Thankful for partnership with ASUCLA, which will allow students the opportunity to utilize SNAP benefits at the UCLA Store (Market)

xi. Public Health research
   1. Work in progress to publicize basic needs efforts in academic journals and demonstrate the critical nature of basic needs resources and services on college campuses

II. Review of Agenda
   a. NO CHANGES

III. Review of Meeting Notes
   a. APPROVED

IV. Committee Updates
   a. UCLA Basic Needs Plan 2021 – 2022
i. Please refer to the UCLA Basic Needs website (under “Who We Are” → “Meeting Notes 2021-22” → “Spending Plan”)

b. UC-BN Committee
   i. Recap from meeting with Systemwide Co-Lead:
      1. Special committee developed basic needs report – which redefined basic needs. However, they did not include the people on the ground at each campus
      2. Not every campus has the capacity or infrastructure in place to mimic the operations and structure of other campuses. Campuses must tailor operations based on their own capacity and needs

c. Student Affairs Welcome
   i. Reassembling campus has a lot of moving parts to it
   ii. Largest campus in the UC system – so with that comes immense challenges to adjust and pivot along the ever-evolving changes
   iii. “Thank you for the great work – UCLA has always been on the cutting edge”

V. Data & Assessments
   a. UC Systemwide Data Requests
      i. Reporting for 2021 – 2022
         1. Team will do its best to provide reporting and deadline notices to areas receiving funds

VI. BN Services
   a. 580 Café
      i. Continuing through the pandemic addressing issues of basic needs amongst various student populations, including but not limited to those identifying as: international, transfer, graduate, and postgraduate
      ii. Currently, 580 Café has a patio where lunches can be hosted, where they provide food to students
      iii. Working with Food Forward to bring fresh produce and vegetables
      iv. 14 student interns for the academic year
v. 20-30 students consistently coming by for support

b. Community Programs Office (CPO)
   i. Relaunching Bruin Bites:
      1. Text messaging service any department can sign up for
      2. Announce when food is being served and following up if there’s leftovers for campus community members to take
   ii. Food Closet is open 10am – 5pm Monday through Friday
   iii. Successful box programs last Spring and Summer. Very much looking forward to the Turkey Day and Winter Holiday Food Box Programs later in Fall 2021
   iv. Thankful for the CalFresh team in getting grad programs the necessary exemption status
   v. Food Closet On the Go! Mobile Food Cart Program will launch later this academic year
   vi. Commuter Van Service will relaunch this academic year

c. Economic Crisis Response Team (ECRT)
   i. Emergency Housing and Quarantine Housing (*funded by Rapid Re-Housing*):
      1. Housed close to 600 students during pandemic
   ii. Distributed meal vouchers to 541 students
   iii. Awarded approximately 600 grants totaling up to $1,000,000
      1. Covered: housing balance, basic needs, student dependent insurance, students who lost income, international students (who were impacted by the pandemic, but not eligible for HEERF funding)
   iv. Assessed and supported 590 students with holistic support services
   v. 50% caseload of the 2020/2021 academic year
      1. Incoming students, international students who are deeply impacted
   vi. Mondays and Tuesdays (in person) – adjusting based on what students need (operating successful remotely)
   vii. Rolling out Meal Voucher Program
viii. Working with BruinCard, Student Accounts, and SAIT to make voucher program electronic
ix. Clarifying point: ECRT supports students in distress; Financial Wellness Program supports students in managing their resources
d. Semel Healthy Campus Initiative (HCI)
   i. Community garden at Sunset Rec
      1. 31 raised beds are open to all UCLA community members
      2. So far, approximately 200 students have expressed interest in the garden plots

VII. BN Partner Roundtable
   a. CalFresh
      i. Virtual office hours twice a week (access via CPO website or Instagram)
      ii. Worked hard to accrue 16 new grad programs for exemption status
      iii. Statewide committee, composed of stakeholders from community college, CSU, and UC systems, are currently working across systems so students access basic needs
   b. Bruin Dine
      i. Finding challenges in relaunching operations
      ii. Explore working with 580 Café and Campus Life
   c. BruinHub
      i. Official announcement that BruinHub is up and running at the John Wooden Center
      ii. Please contact Carmen Garcia-Shushtari for any questions about reserving space
   d. Financial Wellness Program (FWP)
      i. Currently interviewing grad/professional students for a 2nd grad consultant
      ii. Already hired their first 2021-2022 Grad Consultant back in July
      iii. Grad Consultant positions are funded by the UCLA Basic Needs Committee
      iv. FWP data for Spring & Summer 21:
1. 90% of students shared they felt more comfortable with their student loans after their 1:1 session
2. 100% said their peer coach taught them effective strategies to manage their financial well-being.
3. 58.2% self-identified as first generation (versus 19/20 mark that 44.7% identified as first generation)
4. 88% of incoming undergraduates want to learn more about their financial health, but 67% of them have never met with someone to talk about money
5. 47% of incoming students also shared that online training & resources are the top methods that UCLA can do to support their financial well-being

v. Prioritizing Credit Education this year in collaboration with a FACTA campus grant
1. Hosting weekly credit hours on Mondays from 1-3pm; weekly “credit bit” educational content on their Instagram (@uclafinancialwellness) as well as quarterly credit awareness workshops with Wescom Credit Union
2. Hosting “Money Monday” morning takeovers on Instagram.

vi. New Fall 2021 Coaching Hours were sent for distribution to Basic Needs Leadership

vii. Appointment requests have been steady.

viii. If students you work with need support budgeting out expenses, navigating how to best use the upcoming HEERF 3 funding, understanding student loans, please encourage them to make an appointment on their website for support (especially as Financial Aid has been highly impacted this quarter).

ix. Financial Wellness Center opening has been pushed to Winter 2022 due to construction/facility issues.

VIII. Closing
   a. Announcements
IX. Lunch
   a. Mercado Buenos Aires (Van Nuys, CA) – served at the Picnic Area adjacent to SAC and SAC Pool (East end of the building)