



Basic Needs Committee
Winter 2021: Friday, February 5, 2021
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Zoom RSVP: <https://ucla.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvc-CqqD0oHdWChdeSngSlas-gix10DtZ4>

- I. Chair Welcome
- II. Chair Updates
 - a. Campus Check In with UCOP systemwide leadership
 - i. CalFresh – sharing priorities to expand exemption status for graduate students
 - b. USAC requested Basic Needs Information from CPO
 - i. Summary: Efforts have lasted for over a decade
 - ii. Expanded efforts to include weekly bundle distributions, holiday food boxes, CalFresh application assistance, physical fitness and nutrition education
 - iii. Observations and challenges that impacted box distribution:
 1. in the past year, there was a reduction in on-campus housing
 2. students were informed not to return to campus
 3. cost of living in Westwood did not incentivize people to return to campus
 4. holiday travels meant students were around less and may have not applied to services
 5. restrictions due to COVID resulted in drive-thru only which reduced accessibility
 6. less opportunities for student jobs meant disruption of transfer student network
 7. oversaturation of outreach materials

8. cumbersome application process due to data collection required for university and systemwide policies
- c. AVC Campus Life
 - i. Innovation Grant update
 1. Investment into ASUCLA
 - a. Prioritizing CalFresh: software project to ensure EBT POS across ASUCLA in order to allow CalFresh recipients to purchase food items at all ASUCLA restaurants and shops
 - b. ASUCLA will combine the grant funds with their existing funds to implement and launch the project
 2. Campus Life partnership with cityLab at Architecture to launch robust project centered on creating a safe, welcoming environment for housing insecure and commuter students to rest and build community at an identified space in the John Wooden Center:
 - a. Multiple-use accommodations
 - b. Restrooms/locker rooms
 - c. Access control
 - d. Operating 24 hours/day
 - e. Prototypes of furnishings have been developed
 - i. Groups have tested furnishings
 - ii. Team will implement changes based on feedback from students and staff
 3. Submitted by the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs for \$350,000 – UCLA received \$305,000 (CalFresh Implementation Project will receive \$150,000; Commuter Support Services Hub will receive \$154,000)
 - III. Presentation by the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships (FAS)
 - a. 2nd Committee meeting – FAS really enjoys being part of the group

- b. End amount of resources FAS delivers to Bruin community (primarily undergraduate student population)
- c. The Ask: Provide financial aid information for vulnerable student populations that CPO has been supporting on an ongoing basis
 - i. Students with Dependents
 - 1. Not every student with a dependent applies for financial aid
 - 2. Those that have: 189 students 2020-2021
 - 3. UG: 79% of grants and scholarships and 21% loans
 - 4. SWD: 87% grant/scholarship and 13% loans
 - 5. UG Average unmet need: \$2,408
 - 6. SWD Average unmet need: \$2,773
 - ii. Bruin Guardian Scholars
 - 1. 195 students
 - 2. BGS: 92% grant and scholarship, 8% loans
 - 3. BGS average unmet need: \$1,486
 - 4. 20% of Bruin Guardian Scholars received summer aid
 - iii. DREAM students (undocumented and eligible for AB540 – can receive state loans)
 - 1. 563 students
 - 2. 40% grant and scholarship, 59% fee waivers, 1% loan
 - 3. UG Average unmet need: \$6,696
 - iv. Transfer Students – Admitted Fall 2020
 - 1. 2400 students (new admits only)
 - 2. 81% grant and scholarship, 19% loans
 - 3. Transfer Average unmet need: \$5,186
 - 4. 14% of newly admitted transfers received summer aid (took bridge summer programs before joining UCLA in Fall)
 - v. Veteran Students
 - 1. 138 students
 - 2. 44% grant and scholarships, 52% veteran benefits, 4% loans

- d. Don't want to make assumptions about students and their individual costs.
 - i. For example, assumption that Students with dependents have childcare costs could turn out wrong if student is living with family and does not have childcare costs
- e. Basic Needs comes in to provide the extra services – not a duplicate of Financial Aid & Scholarships

IV. Data & Assessments

- a. Thank you to campus colleagues for reporting mid-year data.
 - i. Ideally would have loved to give everyone more time, but typically reporting process from UCOP is a quick turnaround
- b. Fall & Winter Reporting
 - i. Will be due at beginning of Spring to give folks more time to rebound and compile winter efforts as well
 - ii. Due for areas that receive Food & Housing Insecurity Funds and/or Rapid Re-Housing Funds
 - iii. Opportunity to demonstrate how your area has been able to pivot to virtual/remote services; showcase challenges AND how your area has overcome them
- c. Request to Modify Line Items
 - i. Must notify Basic Needs leadership team
 - ii. Basic Needs Chair will then bring it to VCSA – ultimately VCSA will make determinations on how funds will be moved

V. Service Provider Updates

- a. 580 Café
 - i. Recognize the issue of food access is critical, at 580 still developing community sponsors (interfaith community and LA basin that has other food resources) for grants/stipends for students (ex. Grocery cards, stipends)
 - ii. Helping students register for inoculations
- b. ASUCLA
 - i. *No pertinent updates*
- c. Bruin Dine

- i. Not fully operating, but still talking with UCLA Dining to maintain relationships and recover food whenever safest possible; checking in with Chidera regularly
 - ii. Working closely with Swipe Out Hunger and Hunger Project to see how best we can support food security from student perspective
- d. Campus Life
 - i. *Main points provided during AVC's presentation earlier in meeting*
- e. ECRT
 - i. Elevate a couple items given this advocacy this group does
 - ii. Since beginning of covid, \$1.1 million in grants (most funding is from Basic needs and combination of ECRT grants from other sources) 1,100 students
 - iii. 680 referrals
 - iv. Appreciate advocacy and efforts
 - v. Meal Voucher program
 - 1. Can submit request on website
 - 2. Students are required to submit daily monitoring form
- f. Financial Aid & Scholarships
 - i. FAS staff has been supplementing work of ECRT in distributing financial aid funds and institutional aid to students that have additional expenses that are not
 - ii. Funds still available for students in distress – additional funds from a COVID relief scholarship (partnered with Development)
 - iii. Welcome students to reach out to their office
 - iv. RE: CARES Act funding we received from initial allocation → money has been fully spent – UCLA is expecting additional allocation of at least \$17 million for emergency grants to students. HERF II – hopefully before Spring; advocating to administration funds from next allocation be administered and eligibility determined by FAS

1. CARES Act was in middle of Spring, so everyone had varying expenses – so was more broadly available
 2. HERF II – hoping to be able to focus funds on neediest populations
- g. Financial Wellness Program
- i. Tax Education Workshop series: past Tuesday, domestic students' workshop 570 RSVPs, 160 students attended live
 1. Private youtube link at limited availability: roughly 550 views
 2. Feb 22nd 630-8 for international students' workshop
 3. Tax specific questions for undocumented students, reach out directly to Vita (vita UCLA@gmail.com)
- h. Housing & Hospitality (Meal Plan Conversion)
- i. *No pertinent update*
- i. Semel Healthy Campus Initiative (HCI) Gardens
- i. Raised over \$90k through Spark campaign with CPO (website says \$60k, but additional donor matched with \$30k)
 - ii. Advocacy to AVC Beck to expand efforts to staff and recent retirees
 - iii. Garden: 315 lbs of produce donated to UAS
 - iv. Another grant will support edible gardens at university apartments
- j. Student Wellness Commission
- i. *No pertinent update*
- k. Swipe Out Hunger
- i. SWC, Swipe Out Hunger, and Bruin Dine are regularly checking in to plan return to campus operations, whenever that is possible
- l. Teaching Kitchen
- i. Recording that way folks can make it if they are in class/work
 - ii. Virtual programming will continue through summer

- iii. Finalizing Spring classes and workshops right now
- iv. Cook Book Club – join and recipes get sent to you
- v. Schedule and registration all on the Teaching Kitchen website
(<https://fitwell.recreation.ucla.edu/facilities/teachingkitchen>)

m. CPO

- i. CalFresh
 - 1. Week 3 Basic Needs Fair – IG takeover and on-campus orgs
 - 2. Reached over 18,000 total impressions, over 1,000 IG accounts
 - 3. Working on increasing graduate exemption status (recently got Luskin School of Public Affairs approved)
 - 4. Internship due today at 5pm
 - 5. Office hours weekly
- ii. FITTED Eats
 - 1. *No pertinent updates*
- iii. Food Box Distribution Programs
 - 1. *No pertinent updates; Updates were shared earlier in the meeting as part of “Chair Updates” under “observations and challenges...”*

VI. Announcements