Food Insecurity and Housing Work Group Update

Anthony Rusk
Student Regent
Introduction

• The board has received several comments from faculty and student leaders concerning student hunger and food insecurity and housing concerns.

• In response, the Chair Larry Penley has tasked the student regents with establishing a work group on student food and housing insecurity.
Definitions

- **Food Insecurity** - the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner.

- **Housing Insecurity** - a broad set of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utilities, or the need to move frequently.

**FIGURE 3. Food Insecurity Items Among Survey Respondents by Sector**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Two-Year</th>
<th>Four-Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The food that I bought just did not last and I did not have the money to buy more.</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there was not enough money for food.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I ate less than I felt I should because there was not enough money for food.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money for food.</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there was not enough money for food (3 or more times).</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I lost weight because there was not enough money for food.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food (3 or more times).</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIGURE 4. Housing Insecurity Among Survey Respondents by Sector**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Two-Year</th>
<th>Four-Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Had a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not pay full amount of utilities</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not pay full amount of rent or mortgage</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved in with people due to financial problems</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived with others beyond the expected capacity of the housing</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had an account default or go into collections</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left household because felt unsafe</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved three or more times</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received a summons to appear in housing court</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Endorsing Statement (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Food Insecurity - UA Campus Pantry

Unique users per semester:
Fall 2019: 1,911
Spring 2020: 1,838

Average visits per week:
Pre-COVID: 1,050
Current: 700
Food Insecurity - UA Campus Pantry

Undergraduate Students: 67%
Graduate Students: 33%

Female: 56%
Male: 44%

Pell-Grant/Low SES: 50%
Live on Campus: 37%
First Generation: 42%
Honors: 16%

African American: 5%
Asian American: 7%
Native American: 2%
Hispanic: 23%
Pacific Islander: <1%
Two or more races: 4%
White: 24%
International: 33%
Unknown/Other: 2%

"Without the pantry, I would eat every two days" – Campus Pantry Client
**Housing Insecurity**

- Nationally (4-year university students)
  - 48% experience housing insecurity
  - 14% experience homelessness

College & University Basic Needs Insecurity: A National #RealCollege Survey Report (April 2019)

- At the UA
  - 20% of undergrads often or always experience housing insecurity
  - 75 active participants in Fostering Success & growing

2016 Campus Climate Survey: https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/UA-Campus-Climate-Booklet.pdf
Fostering Success

- Peer Mentoring – mentors are former mentees
- Fall 2018 FTFT 89% retention rate (compared to 78% UA)
- Support through building networks, referrals, mental health access, community/belonging programming, crisis intervention, coordinator involvement
- We consistently have students referred year-round due to homelessness – we are the hub for students that are willing to connect with us.

“\[quote\]I would definitely not be in college and I probably wouldn’t be stably housed if it weren’t for Fostering Success. There was a time not long ago that I was contemplating eating my next meal out of a trash can and terrified of sleeping on the streets another night. And now I’m graduating in May 2021.\[quote\]

–current Fostering Success student
Workgroup’s Direction

- Study And Assess The Scope Of Student Food Insecurity And Housing Needs
- Evaluate Existing Or Emerging Best Practices
- Gathering Possible Additional Student Data
- Develop Possible Guidance On Campus-based Policies
- Workgroup Membership
WORK GROUP ON FOOD INSECURITY AND HOUSING

TIMELINE: SEPTEMBER 2020 TO APRIL 2021

- Development and Appointment of the Work Group Charge on Food Insecurity and Housing

- Food Insecurity and Housing Assessment
  - Review of Current Practices
  - Data and Literature Review
  - Best practices
  - Peer Institutional review
  - Work Group Meeting(s)

Spring 2021 semester: working documents and report draft based on data collection and analysis
- Work Group Meeting(s)
- Final report and recommendations

Aug/Sept 2020
- Kickoff and development of timeline and work plan/items to review

October 2020
- ABOR Board Meeting
  - ABOR charge to the Work Group and discussion.

November 2020
- ABOR Board Meeting
  - Update and Discussion

February 2021
- ABOR Board Meeting
  - Update and Discussion

April 2021
- ABOR Board Meeting
  - Final report and recommendations
The Ask for the University of Arizona Senate

October 2, 2020
Basic Need Coalition

• Getting the right individuals in the right room

• Collaboration vs. Competition

• Eliminating silos across campus

• Leveraging data and knowledge of best practices

• Not reinventing the wheel