

Notes for Academic Senate Meeting April 4, 2016

David G. Braverman, Interim Associate Vice President, Student Life and Dean of Students

How we started:

- President Hagan asked in November of 2015 what we were doing at CSUDH about this important issue of food insecurity of students and circulated some information for us to review
- Dr. Franklin asked me to gather information about the services we had in place beyond the typical (financial aid, emergency loans...)
- I was aware of the food pantry in OSL so started there.
- Pulled together a group in December from some student affairs units and some other staff that worked with students to identify resources on campus and what we could be doing and moving toward
- We reported to Dr. Franklin about the food pantry, faculty and staff emergency grant, and that we were interested in exploring additional services we could supply and resources we could use.
- We formed a “project team” to meet and work together to advance this agenda. The team has grown every meeting. Some people have moved off, others moved on, and is open to whomever is interested in participating. The team currently consists of David Braverman, Interim Associate VP for Student Life and Dean of Students (defacto convener) and:
 - Jeff Poltorak, Associate VP Development
 - Andre Kachutaurians, Senior Director, Annual Campaigns and Advancement Services
 - Delores Lee, Director Financial Aid
 - Katrina Hermoso, Associate Director EOP
 - Mayra Soriano, Associate Director Encounter To Excel
 - Anna Liza Garcia, Assistant Dean of Students
 - Cheryl McKnight, Director SLICE
 - Jay Jenkins, Coordinator of Women’s Resource Center
 - Joshua Williams, Assistant Toro Scholars Coordinator
 - Khaleah Bradshaw, Assistant Director External and Community Relations
 - Leah Schuler, Director of Residence Life
 - Bea Gadduang, Student and ASI
 - Matthew Smith, Director of Educational Partnerships
 - Paz Oliveres, Associate Vice President Student Success Services
 - Sergio Pineda, Community Partner Coordinators

- Tori Correia, Student
- We identified areas for focus and the group split into working groups to address each area and agreed to reconvene every six weeks to share progress and discuss future directions and efforts. The groups we identified were:
 - Food Pantries (what we had, what we should add, issues to consider...) This included all aspects of getting access to food)
 - Technical Support and communication (web sites, apps...)
 - Shelter was added
 - Education Programs for students around money management and access
 - Community partners and potential services for our students
 - Marketing and promotion of available services to faculty and staff
 - Assessing need and determining the scope of issues faced by students
 - Possible donation sources (food vouchers, food, donations...)
- Letter from the president raised awareness of the issue of the campus community. It also generated contacts from several sources on behalf of students and by students themselves. Also some faculty reached out to see about opportunities for support.
- Current Status
 - Operating a pantry in OSL during business hours. No process, just go in and take what is needed. Replenished by donations from groups. Most are referred there from faculty and staff. No abuse of it as yet, but we need to publicize it better, which will result in more use and greater demand, with more need for donations.
 - Looking at additional sites (SLICE has an informal stock of food)
 - Continuing to identify people working with students with greater need and joining the committee such as Foster Children.
 - Working on the web site
 - Collecting available community resources, but it is a struggle to catalogue and get the information out.
 - Working on CalFresh – Cheryl participated in a webinar about it and we are exploring becoming a distribution site for students
 - Torolink “perks” filter for finding programs with free food

- Case management and meetings – I have met with 4 student and 2 others scheduled to assess need and make recommendations – leads to thoughts of establishing a case management system to personalize advice and resources for individual students. Will continue to explore how we develop and support this process (Financial Aid, MSSs, Student Affairs, SdRC, foundation dining services...?)
- Splitting other areas of food resources from Food Pantry group and expanding that (notices of free food available on campus...)
- Looking to hold a panel about food and shelter insecurity around campuses with community and campus resources presenting
- Looking at how to help students who have no place to sleep. Parking, showers, food preparation, laundry...
- Continued education and development of the entire campus – webinars, conferences, conference topics...
- We do want to ensure collaboration across the university community.
- The chancellor has commissioned two more years with the same researchers who released the first study. As a campus, we will be working closer with them to understand our campus-specific issues.
- We also plan to visit a few of the CSU schools who are way ahead on this issue.
- And plan to attend CHEFS next year.
- We will be submitting a report to President Hagan at the end of the year.
- We are open to ideas, feedback, support.