



**Basic Needs Committee (BNC)  
Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2023**

Committee Members							
X	Koji Uesugi, Co-Chair	X	Marisa Fierro	X	Sgt. Brian Owen	X	Carla Tablas
X	Pauline Swartz, Co-Chair (fac)	X	Renu Katoch	X	Karelyn Hoover	X	Lorena Cardozo
X	Christina Cammayo (fac)	X	Shelly Laddusaw	X	Julia Walker		Jeze Lopez (guest)
	Thuy Pham (fac)	X	Rosie Esparza	X	Diana Giannone (Community)		Bill Lambert (guest)
X	Rigo Estrada	X	Daisy Olivas	X	Leonardo Rojas (Student)	X	Vivian Hernandez
X	Barbara Carrillo		Ken McAlpin		Sebastian Rock (Student)	X	John Kay

**I. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement (3 min)**

*We will begin this meeting with a Land Acknowledgement to recognize the native peoples whose land upon which Mt. SAC resides.*

*Mt. SAC is geographically situated on the traditional lands of the Tongva peoples. I ask you to join me in acknowledging their community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. May we honor the land and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. Thank you.*

**II. Review and Approval of Minutes for November 21, 2022 (5 min)**

**III. Updates (30 minutes)**

- Basic Needs Resources (Rigo):
  1. CalFresh Outreach (regular updates – Rigo/Vivian): Prime Stop on campus accepts EBT. Goals for spring, CFO week was held during the first week of spring semester. Vivian and her team have led the way in CFO projects, including creating educational benefits about COVID relief benefits and connecting students to county offices. Many educational programs are now eligible for student eligibility LPIE programs (LPIE, local programs that increase employability). CalFresh awareness month is in May. Will be working with REACH to provide more visibility during CalFresh awareness month. Rigo provided information about typical benefit amounts that students were receiving which was an additional \$90. This was under the COVID relief act which ends this month. Temporary eligibility of having a zero EFT on their financial aid is no longer valid.
  2. Mountie Fresh Food Pantry and Snack Rack (Rigo): Food pantry was remodeled during the winter. Since the food pantry was closed for the remodel students were given Stater Bros food vouchers. Last week was the first food pantry distribution for spring, served 585 students. Rigo shared the spring semester food pantry flyer with days and hours listed. Snack Rack program, there has expanded from 6 to 10 locations, added the Student Health Center, Promise Plus and Student Life Center, TERC.
  3. Housing (Rigo): Six students from the housing program have graduated and four of these students have found new permanent housing. Currently there are 16 students being housed. Johnny Kay is the Sycamores Campus Peer Navigator. 75 referral cases have been sent to Johnny from our Basic Needs Office. Johnny is on campus at 9G, Basic Needs Program on Tuesdays.
  4. Case management (Rigo): In fall of 2022 requested 225 emergency grant requests from Financial Aid. Up to \$27,405 worth of vouchers were distributed in the fall and 397 students met with Basic Needs staff for assistance. Thanks to Marisa in Foundations, Basic Needs

received the California low-cost auto insurance grant, received \$1500 to help provide outreach. Rigo and his team will be making flyers and posters about this low-cost insurance.

5. Personnel updates (Rigo):
  - i. Vivian Hernandez, Basic Needs Coordinator
  - ii. Lorena Cardozo, Basic Needs Program Specialist
6. #RealCollegeCalifornia survey in spring 2023 (Koji): Koji provided information about the survey and that Mt. SAC will be a part of this survey.

#### **IV. Discussion (40 min)**

- New Committee Function Statement and Goal (Koji)
  - Brainstorm measurable outcomes of basic needs cards for student success: Koji provided information about this grant and the goals the committee formed. Basic Needs Vouchers for food, gas and campus dining have been ordered. A guideline and procedure manual is being created that will be shared with programs and academic offices that will be participating in the distribution of these Basic Needs vouchers. Need to see and measure the outcomes, whether this is a questioner or quantitative data that is collected. Suggestions for measuring outcomes, how many apply for Cal Fresh benefits after receiving these vouchers, because they are being informed of the campus Basic Needs program. Encourage them to apply for Cal Fresh. Karelyn asked if there is a way to see if a student finishes their courses, did they register for the following term, something that shows the student is continuing their education here. How do we measure how these vouchers are fulfilling a need or gap? It was suggested maybe student testimonials. It was proposed that a survey be provided when distributing the vouchers
- Basic Needs Committee members terming out at the end of 2022-23 (Pauline)
  - Review current membership list: if you are terming out you will receive an email from the chairs.
- Basic Needs Champion Awards (Pauline) (Tabled)
  - Proposal for a fall event (open house and luncheon) to recognize BN Champions

#### **V. Good of the Order (2 min)**

#### **VI. Next Meeting**

- April 17, 2023 – Review BNC goals and identify outcomes

#### **VII. Adjourn**