



**Basic Needs Committee (BNC)  
Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2020**

Committee Members							
X	Koji Uesugi, Co-Chair	X	Marisa Fiero	X	Ken McAlpin	X	Kaitlyn Yrineo
X	Pauline Swartz, Co-Chair	X	Renu Katoch		Paul Miller	X	Romelia Salinas
	Christina Cammayo	X	Shelly Laddusaw		Faculty (sabbatical)	X	Maricela Vazquez Aviles (Stu)
X	Barbara Carrillo	X	Jeze Lopez	X	Julia Walker		Michael Myers (Stu)
X	Rigo Estrada	X	Irene Martinez	X	Brenda Ricarte	X	Amelia Simek
	Patricia Montoya		Yolanda Haro				

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Review and Approval of Minutes for April 6, 2020**

**III. Updates**

- Basic Needs Resources (Rigo)
  - CalFresh Outreach (regular updates – Rigo/Brenda): Working through social media, keeping students engaged and applying for CalFresh. Brenda posted information and took polls. Then Rigo reached out to the students who took the polls and assisted them with their applications. Cal Fresh has been able to provide maximum allotted benefits. Brenda, pre-screening has 6 application appointments this week, numbers are going up.
  - March Mountie Fresh Food Pantry (Rigo/Brenda): Koji provided some information on safety procedures and thanked everyone who helped to coordinate the food pantry drive thru efforts. Concerns and challenges about coordinated were discussed and other ways we can contribute. Rigo provided information on the upcoming food pantry on Thursday, going to make 400 bags and working with Tzu Zhi who will be providing 350 additional bags. We expect more walk ups this Thursday.
  - Introduction of Campus Peer Navigator, Amelia Simek: Rigo introduced Amelia. She also works with PCC and Citrus College. She will be working on basic needs on campus, help student's problem solve and get students into housing. Connected with HOFSA and Hathaway Sycamore. She said inquires have slowed down and is looking at ways to promote her services to students, she will be working with Rigo on a plan to connect to students.

- Donation Campaign for BN by Foundation (Marisa): Since the email sent from Foundations on Friday, they have received a little over \$2,000, for a grand total of a little over \$20,000. Bill Lambert is delivering bread to the campus today. Marisa suggested connecting with admin in ACCESS office who lives in Walnut and works with DPSS and has CalFresh knowledge to serve as the community rep for BNC.

#### IV. Discussion

- Special 1:1 Dialogue with Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice
  - Beyond drive-thru food pantries, e-cards for grocery stores, and housing referrals, how can colleges provide effective basic needs resources to students remotely while also ensuring the safety of college personnel and students?

*A: Emergency Aid funds, this is the most flexible but the hardest to administer. Students find out about this by referral or word of mouth but unfortunately the student that is most in need is usually socially disconnected. Or the least to come forward if the set-up is too hard for them. Sara shared the concern about the equity concern, seeing that more women are receiving this emergency aid. Men are not completing college and are disconnected and reluctant to ask for help. Is this the right time to distribute these funds or do we wait till after the semester? Sara going to have need now, in the summer and in the fall so make it stretch. Take the pool of money and set aside for later, need to be transparent. Making the money last if proactive. One approach is to set up some criteria, the FAFSA data is flawed and out of date so don't use this information. CalFresh students and FA students are not the only ones in need. Create a centralized an application with an easy website. Use the application to reach out to students even if they don't get the aid this allows us to connect with them and let them know we care. Do what medical professionals are doing with now, they triage and prioritize, take the persons need that are emergent. CARES money is a good start. Eric provided information about the laptop distribution and some of the challenges they are facing including transparency. Sara shared that time and transportation are challenges that can keep students from coming to pick up their laptops. First come first serve is not equitable and or cutting out checks is not good. Formulas only work when you have good data and the data from FAFSA is not good data. Sara talked about Swift Student, like legal zoom for students on FA, this website was created for students to appeal financial aid; <https://formswift.com/swift-student#>*

*Irene asked what is the best way to distribute these funds, is it in the form of a check or debit card? Sara do not use anything that charges a fee, perhaps electronic checks or electronic gift card. Keep this process very simple, don't give instructions. We will not be asked to produce receipts. The more flexibility we provide the more effective this process will be.*

- What are Sara's suggestions for how to best provide students in need of emergency funds from the CARES Act? Should financial aid guidelines be used as a benchmark to determine eligibility? What are some innovative strategies community colleges are using to use these funds that support students best?

*Sara asked if we have applied for the CARES dollars? Koji responded yes, Koji shared information on these funds. Sara asked how are we distributing these funds? The most effective way to distribute emergency aid. Guidance and language on who is eligible is vague. These were intended to help with living expenses. Not intended to be reported to the aids office (Financial Aid). They will not be auditing. Eric asked if Sara had information on money for undocumented students based on Governors Newsom announcement of funding for the undocumented. Sara it looks like there will be 2 pots of money but do not advertise this, avoid multiple application make it just one. Asking questions should bring up how students are living and using the funds they are receiving. Frame the questions that allow students to share and help them to think long term.*

*Have faculty communicate to students about services that are available to them, make the faculty the front line.*

- Shed light on how students are coping with the mental health aspect of basic needs given campus closures, lack of connections to faculty and peers, and access to campus spaces like libraries, support service programs, student activities centers, etc.

*Sara shared that people are feeling helpless.*

- Provide suggestions for a basic needs committee like ours to advise and support basic needs efforts on a college with the size and diverse needs of students like Mt. SAC.

*How do you help homeless students living in their car and pass up opportunities to change that living situation? Sara, get them to trust you and get them to name the fears they may have.*

## **V. Good of the Order (All)**

## **VI. Next Meeting**

- May 4, 2020

## **VII. Adjourn**

