



SUBJECT	ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AT UBC
MEETING DATE	SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION Forwarded on the Recommendation of the President



Santa J. Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor

FOR INFORMATION

Report Date	August 28, 2019
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Presented By Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the most comprehensive data gathered to date on the prevalence of food insecurity at UBC. It summarises work undertaken by the recently formed *UBC Food Insecurity Action Team (FIAT)* to support a whole institution, collaborative, and community-led approach to identifying opportunities to enhance existing initiatives as well as new actions to address this complex issue.

Context and Definition

Food insecurity is a serious public health issue in Canada. It negatively impacts physical, mental, and social health, and is associated with higher costs to the healthcare system.¹ Adequate economic access to personally acceptable, sufficient, and nutritious food can be a challenge for students, especially international students and those from marginalised groups. Food insecurity has been raised as an area of concern by many individuals and groups on our campuses, including the UBC Board of Governors. Recent data regarding the prevalence of food insecurity on our campuses substantiates this concern and underscores the need for meaningful action in this area.

To assess the prevalence of food insecurity at UBC, we are using a household income-based definition of food insecurity, defined as “inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints”², the same approach used to assess food insecurity at provincial and national levels. Other definitions of food security that also inform this work consider aspects such as access to culturally appropriate food, proximity and availability, and access to sustainably produced food. See Appendix 1 for a summary of select definitions.

1 Tarasuk V, Cheng J, de Oliveira C, Dachner N, Gundersen C, Kurdyak P. Association between household food insecurity and annual health care costs. CMAJ. 2015;q87(14):E429-E436.

2 Household Food Insecurity in Canada – PROOF [Internet]. [cited 2019 Jan 18]. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/>

Prevalence of Food Insecurity at UBC

In January 2019, the Undergraduate Experience Survey (UES) included a 6-item food insecurity measure validated for use with the general Canadian population.³ Similar to other Canadian post-secondary institutions,⁴ 38.5% of UBC undergraduate respondents reported low to very low food security (i.e., 38.5% of respondents were classified as food insecure) (Table 1). Initial demographic analysis indicates that international students, those identifying as transgender/non-binary, those with a mental health diagnosis and disability, and those primarily funded by loans are more at risk of being food insecure. See Appendix 2 for a further breakdown of food security status by various demographic factors.

Table 1: Food security at UBC by campus - Jan 2019

	UBC Vancouver		UBC Okanagan		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Food Secure	2204	63.0	792	57.7	2996	61.5
Food Insecure	1297	37.0	581	42.3	1878	38.5
<i>Low Food Security</i>	656	18.7	367	26.7	1023	21.0
<i>Very Low Food Security</i>	641	18.3	214	15.6	855	17.5
Total	3501	100	1373	100	4874	100

Currently, data from a validated tool like that used in the UES is not available for UBC graduate students or staff and faculty, but work is underway to gather this.

Prevalence of Food Insecurity on Canadian Campuses

The rate of food insecurity among undergraduate students at UBC is similar to that observed on other campuses across the country. Meal Exchange Canada estimates that approximately 40% of students at Canadian universities experience some degree of food insecurity,⁵ a prevalence which is four times higher than the general Canadian population (12.6% of Canadian households were classified as food insecure in 2012, the last year for which there is nationally representative data).⁶ Additionally, a recent international systematic review estimates average prevalence in higher education across the grey and peer-reviewed literature of 35% and 42% respectively.⁷ Limited data is available on the prevalence of food insecurity for post-secondary staff and faculty – within which are populations that may be at risk because of seasonal work, precarious employment, or earning a wage below what is considered a living wage in metro Vancouver (\$19.50/hr).⁸

University students face many factors that increase the risk of food insecurity, including (but not limited to): rising cost education including tuition, textbooks, food and shelter, inadequate financial assistance, and a high population prevalence of unattached individuals and renters.⁹ Despite high rates of unemployment among post-secondary students compared to the general Canadian population, more students are working during the school year to cover their cost of education – which has seen a 238% increase since 1991.^{10 11} Additionally, students that are international, graduate, Indigenous or have children, are more likely to be food insecure.¹²

Similar to the general Canadian population, food insecurity (especially over many years) increases the risk of poor physical and mental health (anxiety, depression, other mental health disorders) in university students because of stress and poor diet quality¹³. Being food insecure is of particular concern for the university population because of the negative impact it has on learning, academics and work outcomes over time.^{14 15}

Addressing Food Insecurity at UBC

While numerous interventions and activities exist at UBC (see a sample in Appendix 3), a whole institution, collaborative, and community-led process has not been initiated to address food insecurity.

In May 2019 a *Food Insecurity Action Symposium*, hosted by SEEDS Sustainability Program and UBC Wellbeing, brought together approximately 25 individuals from diverse stakeholder groups on both campuses to share current activities and identify new opportunities related to campus-based food insecurity. An outcome of the Symposium was the development of a *Food Insecurity Action Team (FIAT)*, to convene and coordinate action to reduce food insecurity at UBC. From June to August 2019, FIAT members participated in four workshops designed to develop a comprehensive list of ways to enhance existing initiatives as well as prioritize flagship actions that have the potential to reduce the prevalence of food insecurity on our campuses. See Appendix 4 for FIAT Terms of Reference and workshop objectives.

Key Actions Underway

Members of FIAT have identified and are supporting a number of actions, notably:

Food Cafe: In direct response to an increased understanding of the impact of food insecurity on the student population, a new cafe, located at ESB, is being opened and operated by UBC Food Services to provide low-cost, nourishing meals to students. Meals can be purchased at either a \$5 base price or an \$8 - \$10 price point for those that can pay regular price to “pay it forward.”

Student Wellbeing Fund: A new donor “Student Wellbeing Fund”, initiated by Development and Alumni Engagement and administered by VP Students will support action related to the [Wellbeing Strategic Framework](#) targets, including food insecurity and mental health. The Fund will launch on November 22nd with a “Buy a Student a Breakfast” campaign attended by President Ono to raise awareness of student food insecurity issues. Alumni and donors can make a \$10 donation (½ buys a student breakfast and ½ goes to Student Wellbeing Fund).

Open Education Resources: Efforts by the AMS have significantly increased knowledge and uptake of Open Education Resources, which offer low- or no-cost textbooks. AMS and FIAT members will work with Faculties to extend this by developing communications endorsed by Professors and researchers, giving additional weight and access to this initiative.

Emergency Food Card Program: Currently, Enrolment Services provides students in immediate need with Save-on-Food gift cards when the AMS Food Bank is closed. FIAT will support the exploration of options to enhance access and immediate relief for students with this program.

3 Health Canada, The Household Food Security Survey Module (HFSSM) [Internet]. aem. 2010 [cited 2018 Oct 2]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-nutrition-surveillance/health-nutrition-surveys/canadian-community-health-survey-cchs/household-food-insecurity-canada-overview/household-food-security-survey-module-hfssm-health-nutrition-surveys-health-canada.html>

4 Hungry for Knowledge [Internet]. Meal Exchange Canada. [cited 2019 Jan 18]. Available from: <https://www.mealexchange.com/what-we-do/hungryforknowledgereport/>

5 Hungry for Knowledge. [Internet]. Meal Exchange Canada [cited 2019 Jan 18].

6 Tarasuk, V, Mitchell, A, Dachner, N. (2014). Household food insecurity in Canada, 2012. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved from <http://nutritionalsciences.lamp.utoronto.ca/>

7 Bruening, M, et al. “The Struggle Is Real: A Systematic Review of Food Insecurity on Postsecondary Education Campuses” in Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Volume 117, Issue 11, Nov 2017, pages 1767 - 1791

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212267217305518>

8 BC_LivingWage2019_final.pdf [Internet]. [cited 2019 Aug 8]. Available from: https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC%20Office/2019/05/BC_LivingWage2019_final.pdf

9 HFI-Background-DC-FINAL.pdf [Internet]. [cited 2018 Dec 19]. Available from: <https://www.dietitians.ca/Downloads/Public/HFI-Background-DC-FINAL.aspx>

10 Neill C. Rising student employment: the role of tuition fees. Educ Econ. 2015 Jan 2;23(1):101–21.

11 CAUT. (2002). Access denied: The affordability of post-secondary education in Canada, 1857–2002. CAUT Education Review, 4(1), 1–8. Retrieved from [https://www.caut.ca/docs/default-source/education-review/the-economics-of-access-the-fiscal-reality-of-post-secondary-education-for-low-income-families-\(june-2006\).pdf?sfvrsn=0](https://www.caut.ca/docs/default-source/education-review/the-economics-of-access-the-fiscal-reality-of-post-secondary-education-for-low-income-families-(june-2006).pdf?sfvrsn=0)

12 Hungry for Knowledge, op. cit.

13 Health, Nutrition and Food insecurity - PROOF [Internet]. [cited 2019 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/resources/research-publications/health-nutrition-and-food-insecurity/>

14 Hungry for Knowledge, op. cit.

15 Lee SD, Hanbazaza M, Ball GDC, Farmer A, Maximova K, Willows ND. Food insecurity among postsecondary students in developed countries: A narrative review. Br Food J [Internet]. 2018 Aug 7 [cited 2018 Oct 2]; Available from: <https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/10.1108/BFJ-08-2017-0450>

<https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/10.1108/BFJ-08-2017-0450>

Future Action

FIAT has identified the following future action areas to take a whole institution and capacity building approach to alleviate campus food insecurity at UBC and across higher education:

1. CAPACITY BUILDING AND ADVOCACY

Undertake scoping and capacity building work to support FIAT members and senior leadership including:

- Conducting environmental scans and opportunity analyses.
- Developing an approach and plan for advocacy to address income-based food insecurity to local, provincial and federal governments, including issues like tuition/post-secondary funding, guaranteed basic income, affordable childcare, housing, and higher minimum wage.
- Facilitating committees and stakeholder partnerships to advance research and actions.
- Liaising with partner universities and post-secondary networks to build a coalition for food insecurity action knowledge, exchange, and advocacy, nationally and internationally.

2. KEY PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Undertake scoping and implementation support for the following new initiatives:

- Creation of a **Digital Food Hub**, an online “one-stop shop” that brings together information and resources for the UBC community to access information about food and nutrition education, budgeting, the UBC Food Asset Map, and emergency needs information including Swipe it Forward.
- Undertake scoping and development for a **Physical Food Hub** which could include a community kitchen, food bank, common space for preparing and sharing meals, food education programming, etc. We recognize that to effectively address food insecurity at UBC, our actions need to include strategies to both address the income-based causes of food insecurity and also provide opportunities for knowledge and skill development (which can be particularly useful for students, given that early adulthood is an important time for the development of food-related knowledge and skills).
- Note: We would like to clarify that shifting to a focus on a “Food Hub” is an important transition from the traditional emphasis on food banks. Food banks can provide important short-term support to address the hunger that can accompany food insecurity, but they do not reduce food insecurity itself. A Food Hub is based on a model of social service in which we create spaces which not only provide emergency food relief, but also connect members with resources and services that address the causes and effects of food insecurity and promote long-term community food security.¹⁶
- Creation of a **Swipe it Forward** meal donation program where unused or new meal plan dollars are given to students in need through their UBC Card.
- Host a **Food Insecurity Conference at UBC** to convene students, practitioners, and researchers related to addressing food insecurity across higher education.

¹⁶ BC Food Systems Network. “17th Annual Gathering Final Report.” Camp Friendship, Prince George, 28 June 2015, bcfsn.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/01/BCFSNGathering-2015-report.pdf

3. CAMPUS AS A LIVING LAB ON FOOD INSECURITY

Begin positioning UBC as a leader in applying research to inform campus action in the area of food insecurity:

- Creation of a **Student-Led Applied Research Cluster** on food insecurity, taking a Campus as a Living Lab approach to investigate, evaluate, and share knowledge for food insecurity solutions on our campuses. The cluster will build off the success of existing Campus as Living Laboratory initiatives such as the SEEDS (Social Ecological Economic Development Studies) Sustainability Program, and the Campus Biodiversity Research Initiative: Research & Demonstration (CBIRD). The Cluster would facilitate interdisciplinary knowledge exchange partnerships and workshops to enable co-creation of research priorities and actions with students, faculty, staff, and community partners. Applied research will be integrated into various curricular opportunities at the undergraduate and graduate level. We note that a number of student-led projects have already informed initiatives and recommendations to address food insecurity (13 SEEDS projects alone over the past 4 years).
- Collect and conduct **rigorous analysis of food insecurity data**. Analyze the current undergraduate student data and assist with obtaining rigorous and comparable data for graduate students, staff, and faculty to inform action. This is modelled off a successful approach undertaken by the School of Kinesiology to analyze UBC Physical Activity data to inform the UBC Wellbeing Physical Activity Committee's initiatives.
- Faculty engagement to encourage **interdisciplinary research clusters**, potentially with a view to creating a Research Excellence Cluster on Food Insecurity.

Attachments

1. Appendix 1: Selected definitions for Food Insecurity
2. Appendix 2: UES 2019 Food insecurity survey questions and results by key demographics
3. Appendix 3: Sample of current initiatives at UBC related to Food Insecurity
4. Appendix 4: Terms of Reference – Food Insecurity Action Team

People and Places

Research Excellence

Transformative Learning

Local / Global Engagement

APPENDIX 1: Selected definitions of Food Insecurity

There are multiple definitions of food security which examine a variety of aspects. Common ones include:

Household food insecurity, defined as the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints (1).

Community level food security, which, for example, is defined as “when all community residents obtain a safe, personally acceptable, nutritious diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes healthy choices, community self-reliance, and equal access for everyone (2).”

BC Provincial: “Food security exists when all people have sufficient, safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life. Healthy food needs to be available and accessible so people can make healthy food choices (3).”

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines food security as “when all people, at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (4)”

LFS Core Series: Food Security as a flexible concept with six dimensions: Affordability, Availability, Accessibility, Appropriateness (nutritionally, culturally, and morally), Safety, and Environmental Sustainability (AAAASS) (5).

References

1. Household Food Insecurity in Canada – PROOF [Internet]. [cited 2019 Jan 18]. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/>
2. HFI-Background-DC-FINAL.pdf [Internet]. [cited 2018 Dec 19]. Available from: <https://www.dietitians.ca/Downloads/Public/HFI-Background-DC-FINAL.aspx>
3. Government of British Columbia. Food Security. Retrieved from <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/keeping-bc-healthy-safe/food-safety/food-security>
4. al936e00.pdf [Internet]. [cited 2018 Nov 26]. Available from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/al936e/al936e00.pdf>
5. Rojas, et al. (2011). Toward Food System Sustainability through School Food System Change: Think&EatGreen@School and the Making of a Community-University Research Alliance. *Sustainability*, 3(5), 763-788. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su3050763>

APPENDIX 2: UES 2019 Food insecurity survey questions and results by key demographics

The following demographic groups reported higher rates of food insecurity within the UBC context. Data source: UBC Undergraduate Experience Survey 2019. Note: absence of data about graduate students, students with children, and mature aged students among other demographics. A copy of the questions asked follows data.

Food Security by international / domestic

	Domestic		International	
	n	%	n	%
Food Secure	2575	62.7	421	54.9
Food Insecure	1532	37.3	346	45.1
<i>Low Food Security</i>	845	20.6	178	23.2
<i>Very Low Food Security</i>	687	16.7	168	21.9
Total Food Secure + Insecure	4107	100	767	100

Food Security by Gender Identity

	Woman		Transgender/Nonbinary		Man	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Food Secure	1973	60.5	43	40.2	1083	60.3
Food Insecure	1289	39.5	64	59.8	713	39.7
<i>Low Food Security</i>	787	24.1	27	25.2	390	21.7
<i>Very Low Food Security</i>	502	15.4	37	34.6	323	18.0
Total Food Secure & Insecure	3262	100	107	100	1796	100

Food Security by Disability and or Mental Health Condition

	Mental Health Condition Only		Other Disability		Mental Health Condition and Disability		None	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Food Secure	388	53.7	220	54.6	103	42.2	2252	63.9
Food Insecure	334	46.2	183	45.4	141	57.8	1275	36.1
<i>Low Food Security</i>	175	24.2	101	25.1	58	23.8	807	22.9
<i>Very Low Food Security</i>	159	22.0	82	20.3	83	34.0	468	13.3
Total Food Secure & Insecure	722	100	403	100	244	100	3527	100

Food Security by Student Debt

	Primarily Funded through loans		Partly funded through loans		Not funded by loans	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Food Secure	416	47.0	273	53.3	1794	68.1
Food Insecure	469	53.0	239	46.7	839	31.8
<i>Low Food Security</i>	262	29.6	135	26.4	512	19.4
<i>Very Low Food Security</i>	207	23.4	104	20.3	327	12.4
Total Food Secure & Insecure	885	100	512	100	2633	100

Food Security questions asked in the UES January 2019

These next questions are about the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months, and whether you were able to afford the food you need. For these statements, please select whether the statement was often true, sometimes true, or never true for you in the last 12 months. If you are in first-year or a new student, please only think about the time since you enrolled at UBC.

The food that (I/we) bought just didn't last, and (I/we) didn't have money to get more

Often true

Sometimes true

Never true

Don't know / Prefer not to answer

I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.

Often true

Sometimes true

Never true

Don't know / Prefer not to answer

Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No

Skip To: FS_5 If Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food? = No

How often did this happen?

Almost every month

Some months but not every month

Only 1 or 2 months

Don't know

Did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No

Don't know

Were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No

Don't know

APPENDIX 3 - Sample of current initiatives at UBC related to Food Insecurity

The following provides a sample of current activities at UBC focused on food insecurity.

Data source: FIAT meeting 2

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Enrolment Services - provide information and financial support, including an emergency food gift card when student is in immediate need and eating on a budget resource.
- GSS Graduate Student Financial Aid.
- 2018 approval of \$0.35 AMS sustainable food access fund (subsidize food prices and increase programming at Agora Cafe and UBC Sprouts, and offer a student discount at the UBC Farm Market and Roots on the Roof).

PHYSICAL AND SERVICE

- Collegia for first year commuting students at UBCV and UBCO includes a common cooking and eating space.
- Microwaves around campus.
- UBC Green Building Action Plan includes the health and wellbeing as a core design principle and is informed by the WELL Building Standard which calls for physical and service provisions for nutritious food.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Nutrition Month Campaign includes programs and activities related to food skills and low-cost healthy meal prep (UBCO, SHHS, UBC Dietitians of Canada student rep team, UBC Wellbeing Challenge).
- UBC Okanagan Food Services registered dietician and Executive Chef will be hosting cooking and nutrition events/classes twice a semester.
- Workshops & nutrition events throughout the year (Athletics & Recreation, Student Wellness Centre, SHHS, Sprouts, ROTR, UBC Farm, Botanical Garden).

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL INFLUENCE / ADVOCACY

- AMS/GSS advocacy (internal and external) for affordable housing, tuition, student financial assistance.
- UBC Student Dialogue on Poverty Reduction in BC (Report submitted to inform BC Government development of province-wide poverty reduction plan <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/initiatives-plans-strategies/poverty-reduction-strategy/submissions/centre-for-community-engaged-learning-ubc.pdf>).
- Sprouts/Seedlings/Agora advocacy and mandate to support sustainable food systems.
- Wellbeing Strategic Framework 2025 target to reduce food insecurity (UBC Wellbeing).
- SHHS Food Vision & Values (UBC Food Services).

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Maps physical and digital to locate food locations in relation to classrooms and pathways across campus (SHHS, AMS, GSS, SEEDS).
- Food asset map (SEEDS and UBC Botanical Garden).

APPLIED RESEARCH

- SEEDS applied research projects. 13 SEEDS research projects over 4 years.
- VOICES Participatory Research to understand the lived experience of food insecurity at UBCO.
- David Green (UBC professor Vancouver School of Economics) chair of expert committee exploring feasibility of basic-income pilot in BC <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018SDPR0048-001317>.

FOOD BANKS / FOOD HUBS

- AMS Food Bank.
- UBCO Food Exchange (Food Bank).
- "UBC Free Food" group or "Free Food UBC" page on Facebook.
- CHOMP Meal Plans that provide discounts to students, staff and faculty: CHOMP Student 12%; CHOMP UBC Card 5%; CHOMP Department 5%.
- Hillel House \$8 hot lunch on Wednesdays.

Appendix 4: Terms of Reference – Food Insecurity Action Team

Date: July 4th 2019

CONTEXT

Food Insecurity is a serious public health issue in Canada. It negatively impacts physical, mental, and social health, and costs our healthcare system considerably. Adequate economic access to personally acceptable, sufficient, and nutritious food can be a challenge for students, especially those from marginalised groups, and food insecurity has been raised as an area of concern by the UBC Board of Governors.

There are multiple definitions of food security that have varying levels of scope. These include:

- Household food insecurity, defined as the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints.
- Community level food security, which, for example, is defined as “when all community residents obtain a safe, personally acceptable, nutritious diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes healthy choices, community self-reliance, and equal access for everyone.”
- BC Provincial: “Food security exists when all people have sufficient, safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life. Healthy food needs to be available and accessible so people can make healthy food choices.”
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defined food security as “when all people, at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”
- LFS Core Series: Food Security as a flexible concept with six dimensions: Affordability, Availability, Accessibility, Appropriateness (nutritionally, culturally, and morally), Safety, and environmental Sustainability (AAAASS).

The Food Insecurity Action Team (FIAT) will primarily focus on, but is not limited to, the financial-based food insecurity definition.

To provide a baseline of food insecurity prevalence at UBC the six-item short form Household Food Security Survey Module (HFSSM) measure¹ was asked for the first time in the 2019 UES. It is important to note that food insecurity under this measurement is caused by a lack of money for food.

Analysis indicates that moderate and severe food insecurity for undergraduate students across both UBC campus is 38.5%. This rate is similar to other higher education institutions, and a significant issue for UBC to grapple with.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Food Insecurity Action Team is to increase awareness and lead action on reducing food insecurity within the UBC community, with a focus on, but not limited to, the income-based definition of food insecurity.²

LINKS TO UBC STRATEGIC PLANS AND FRAMEWORKS

UBC Strategic Plan

Strategy 3. Thriving communities: Support the ongoing development of sustainable, healthy and connected campuses and communities, consistent with the *20-Year Sustainability Strategy* and the *Wellbeing Strategic Framework*.

¹ HFSSM measures financial access to food.

² See the Food Insecurity Briefing Note for further background definitions.

Supports the vision, calls to action and principles set out in the *Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities & Colleges*.

Wellbeing Strategic Framework

Supports UBC's *Wellbeing Strategic Framework* to "Food & Nutrition" priority area, in particular target to "Reduce food insecurity for UBC community members by 2025 (targets to be developed based on 2019 baseline data)."

AMS Student-driven Sustainability Strategy

OBJECTIVES

1. Take a systems and settings-based approach to decrease income-based food insecurity on UBC campuses.
2. Conduct an environmental scan of current food security best practices, evidence, policies, and initiatives on our campuses, including the identification of drivers or threats to campus food security (e.g. climate change) in order to identify opportunities for further action.
3. Implement, promote, and facilitate food insecurity initiatives in line with evidence-informed practices.
4. Create measures of success and conduct repeated evaluation to inform progress over time.
5. Engage in advocacy at all levels (University community, city, provincial and federal governments) to support food insecurity action.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Members, or delegate are asked to commit to attending the 3 workshop sessions in June and July, as well as monthly meetings (potentially every 2 months) from August onwards
- Members are asked to contribute to the development of the Food Insecurity action plan and may be asked to further support through implementation, promotion or facilitation of initiatives identified in the action plan

REPORTING

Wellbeing Executive Leadership Team
Food & Nutrition Committee (for updates and advisement)³
Food Systems Project (for updates and advisement)⁴
UBC Executive and Board of Directors
Student Leadership organizations: AMS, UBCSUO and GSS

MEETING FREQUENCY

Action Planning Sessions: three 2-hour sessions held over six weeks (one in June, two in July)
Monitoring and update meetings: ongoing meetings for updates and monitoring actions

³ Comprised of members from a variety of campus faculties, departments and units the Food and Nutrition Committee works collaboratively to inform strategic direction and priorities in increasing awareness and action on how access to healthy food can contribute to building a healthier, happier, and more sustainable and equitable community at UBC.

⁴ [UBC Food System Project](#) is an interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder collaboration that applies a community-based and systems approach to leverage the campus as a living laboratory to foster research and actions aimed at accelerating the UBC's transition towards greater food system sustainability. The UBC Food System Project Committee advances the project's vision, goals and actions in all facets of UBC's food system from climate, procurement, zero waste, to food-related policies.

MEMBERSHIP

Andrew Parr, SHHS (co-chair)
Candice Rideout, LFS faculty (co-chair)
Colin Moore, SHHS
Sara Kozicky, SHHS
David Speight, SHHS
Julie Stachiw, SHHS, UBCO
Casey Hamilton, UBCO Campus Health
Melissa Baker, Human Resources
Liska Richer, SEEDS
Sally Lin, SEEDS Projects Coordinator, Undergraduate Student
Heather Mitchell, Student Support and Advising
Hillary Stevens, Student Development and Services
Tara Moreau, Botanical Gardens
Iris Lopez Ramirez, LFS Student
Julia Burnham, AMS VP Academic
AMS Foodbank, Cali Schnarr
Nicolas Romualdi, GSS President
Matt Dolf, UBC Wellbeing
Natasha Moore, UBC Wellbeing
Kerensa Wotton, Scholars Catering
Jaylin Melnichuk, UBC Farm
Ian Lin, AMS Sustainability Projects Coordinator
Graham Matheson, Sprouts
Verena Rossa Roccor, Graduate Student
Sinikka Elliott, Sociology Faculty
Zohreh Rezaieanesh, UBC Climate Hub

Additional names from Okanagan TBA

* Members should designate 1 (one) lead representative and 1 (one) alternate to be present at meetings to ensure continuity and decision-making ability.

CONNECTION AND OUTREACH

Graduate students
International student
Musqueam
Okanagan Nation
BC Government e.g. BCCDC Food Security Melanie Kurrei
Alumni and Development

Submission to the UBC Board of Governors Regarding the Report on Addressing Food Insecurity September 12, 2019

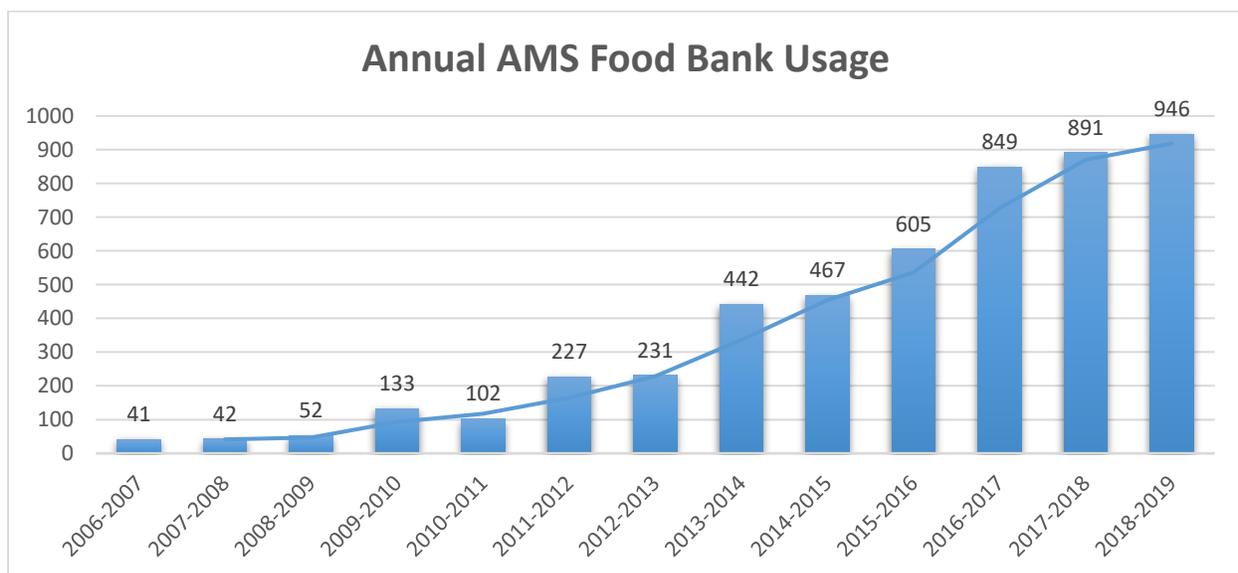
Dear UBC Board of Governors,

This letter is written on behalf of the Alma Mater Society (“AMS”) of UBC Vancouver to supplement the report on addressing food insecurity at UBC provided to the People, Community, and International Committee at its September 12, 2019 meeting.

The AMS has been operating the AMS Food Bank on the UBC Vancouver campus since the 2006/7 academic year. The AMS Food Bank provides emergency food relief to any UBC student in need through perishable & non-perishable foods, and personal hygiene supplies. Students can access the AMS Food Bank up to six times per semester, and are provided a bag of supplies upon visit, with students with dependents receiving two bags.

Usage of the AMS Food Bank has increased drastically over the past several years, as evidenced in the chart below. We had 320 visits between May 2019 and August 2019 – an increase of 28.5% from the previous summer semester. We are projecting to surpass 1,000 total annual visits this 2019/20 academic year.

The 2019 AMS Academic Experience Survey (“AES”) shows that there has been an increase in both graduate and undergraduates who are experiencing food insecurity, with an average of 16.5% of both groups reporting experiencing this on a *monthly basis*. The AES has also reported that 40% of undergraduate students and 45% of graduate student having had concerns about their ability to feed themselves in the past year. This data emphasizes that students are reporting food insecurity issues during their studies at UBC and that this concern is occurring on a regular basis.



We appreciate the Administration's current efforts towards recognizing and addressing the topic of food insecurity. The President's Office has contributed funds towards the AMS Food Bank since 2018 and we hope to see this generosity continue.

We hope the UBC Board of Governors will take this opportunity to address the matter of food insecurity on campus by supporting the Administration bringing forward a directed strategic plan that details clear initiatives to tackle this issue. The AMS will continue to stay engaged on this topic by providing reports on food insecurity through the AES and usage of the AMS Food Bank, as well as contributing to these conversations.

We thank the UBC Board of Governors and the Administration for their continuous work on campus issues and for your consideration on this submission.

Sincerely,



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