

Fullerton College
Faculty Senate Student Equity Committee
2012 Recommendation #5

To: Rolando Sanabria, Faculty Senate President
Cc: Rajen Vurdien, College President
From: FC Faculty Senate Student Equity Committee
Date: November 8, 2012

Recommendation #5: FC Food Bank

Rationale: The FC Food Bank is an innovative plan that will serve many students on many different levels. The FC Food Bank Collaborative is working very hard to provide student assistance with the ultimate goal of supporting their academic success while attending Fullerton College.

When reviewing the Fullerton College Goals, all three goals connect directly to the Food Bank Collaborative.

1. Fullerton College will promote student success.
2. Fullerton College will reduce the achievement gap.
3. Fullerton College will strengthen the connections with the community.

Background:

The FC Food Bank was reopened on April 17, 2012 (FC Administration closed the Food Bank at the end of November 2011). The re-opening had several restrictions that changed the vision of offering a Food Bank that provided a balance of healthy food for students. The restrictions were to offer no perishable items which eliminated fresh produce, fruit, refrigerated items, breads, etc. [In October, 2011 the Food Bank was given a donation from Best Buy of a full-size refrigerator which has not been able to be used since November 2011]. Policies and procedures were set up in the Fall of 2011 that would address the issues/concerns for perishable items. The Food Bank has passed all County Health Inspections. [See additional research at the end of this recommendation].

Recommendations: The Faculty Senate support and move forward the following recommendations:

1. To encourage management, faculty and staff to become part of the FC Food Bank Collaborative.
2. To take leadership is providing the awareness to faculty and staff to announce and share information regarding the Food Bank with students on campus.
3. To return to the original vision of supporting the opportunity for retired faculty and staff giving back to the College Community by joining the Food Bank Collaborative including working in the Food Bank. (If necessary, have the retirees to be able to sign a liability waiver).

4. To help in the staffing of the Food Bank. Managers working with their staff to enable them to be able to give back to the FC Community in volunteering.
5. To announce to faculty and staff the opportunity to support the Food Bank in donation of items not available from the OC Food Bank, to donate grocery cards to have on hand at the Food Bank, and announce the opportunity to support the Food Bank with a payroll deduction.
6. To have a box on the front page of the campus website and a recurring announcement in the President's Weekly, and Hornet newspaper.
7. To eventually return to providing a healthy selection of food including fresh produce, fruit, breads and refrigerated items. At present it is nonperishable and canned goods only.
8. To have facilities staff support in removing the trash from the food bank each week.

The following came from the Collaborative's Research from other Colleges and the 12-15-11 Recommendation:

- "Food pantries on college campuses are unique because they seek an underserved population of students that many people may not be aware is struggling."
- The fact that some college students are in need of food assistance may be hard for some people to swallow, i.e. a person could afford tuition but not three meals a day or two.
- Request skeptics to try to suspend judgment on the matter and let the success of the food pantry speak for itself.
- A lot of students initially were embarrassed. They didn't want to bring attention to themselves. The intent of the food pantry's are to make it as least invasive as possible.
- Dilemma shared: "Anyone who is writing checks to a college knows that tuition is up worldwide, making any dollars for living - books, housing, food - tighter than tight. Low-income students, who may have received free or reduced-priced school lunch from pre-K to senior year, are hit especially hard. Enter the college food bank."
- Continued dilemma: "As more of those students pursue higher education, many are now finding it difficult to meet the rising cost of tuition, books and housing, and still have enough money left for meals. We're here to help students who have decided between buying textbooks or buying food."
- "Another important issue involving hunger on the college campus IS simply convincing people that it's OK to receive help... It takes a great deal of courage for an individual to admit that they are food insecure and then seek aid."
- Student food pantries on college campuses provide food for student under financial stress, helping them stay focused on their academic success.

[A more detailed account is in the 11-30-11 Collaborative Meeting Notes.]

Respectfully submitted by the Faculty Senate Student Equity Committee:

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