AGENDA
Special Telephone Meeting
TRUSTEE-ADMINISTRATION-FACULTY-STUDENT (TAFS) COMMITTEE
University of Connecticut
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
3:30 p.m.

Meeting held by Telephone
Public Call-In Number:
(415) 655-0002 US Toll
Access Code: 2621 903 1302

(A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board website
https://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/ within seven days of the meeting.)

Call to order at 3:30 p.m.

1) Welcome and Instructions
2) Election of Trustee-Administration-Faculty-Student (TAFS) Committee Chair
3) Report from previous Trustee-Administration-Faculty-Student (TAFS) Meeting
4) Food Insecurity Presentation
5) Open Discussion and Identification of Agenda Items for Next Meeting
6) Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE: If you are an individual with a disability and require accommodations, please call the Office of the Provost at (860) 486-4037 prior to the meeting.
What Is Food Insecurity?

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

Hunger is an individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity.

USDA Ranges of Food Security

High Food Security
- Households had no problems, or anxiety about, consistently accessing adequate food

Marginal Food Security
- Households had problems or anxiety at times about accessing adequate food, but the quality, variety, and quantity of their food were not substantially reduced

Low Food Security
- Households reduced the quality, variety, and desirability of their diets, but the quantity of food intake and normal eating patterns were not substantially disrupted

Very Low Food Security
- At times during the year, eating patterns of one or more household members were disrupted and food intake reduced because the household lacked money or other resources for food.

Source: Adapted from the USDA Economic Research Service.

Food insecurity without hunger
USDA Ranges of Food Security

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Food insecurity with hunger
Initial Information on Food Insecurity at UConn

- Survey in 2019 indicated food insecurity issues among students at UConn
- Several strategies in place to combat food insecurity
  - Students First Fund
  - Swipes Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>% reporting “Low” or “Very Low” Food Security</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Storrs</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>2,045</td>
<td>18,585</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartford</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>1,531</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>2,012</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery Point</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps: Focus on Regional Campuses

- Data concerning regional campus students from the 2019 survey raised further questions particularly regarding regional campuses.

- The Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health led a second survey in 2021 focused exclusively on regional students (“Rudd”).

- Data presented here are from that follow-up survey.
# Regional Campus Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Latinx</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hartford</td>
<td>1659</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>2255</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery Point</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Pell Grant (%)</th>
<th>EFC=0 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avery Point</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartford</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rudd Study Aims

• Primary Aim
  - Assess the prevalence of food insecurity among students at each of UConn's regional campuses

• Additional Aims:
  - Examine the relationship between current food insecurity and academic performance (self-reported and GPA)
  - Assess student perceptions of food environment on each campus
  - Evaluate students’ level of support for potential improvements to address food insecurity at each campus
# Rudd Study Response Rates and Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Response rate</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Latinx</th>
<th>Intern’l</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hartford</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery Point</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rudd Survey Details

• 10-item USDA Questionnaire on Food Insecurity
  - 10-minute duration
  - Administered via Qualtrics from April–May 2021

• 7 questions on:
  - Academic Behaviors
  - Level of support for proposed solutions
  - Willingness to pay for food on campus (per meal and per day)

• 3 additional open-ended questions on:
  - Food insecurity and academic performance
  - Food insecurity and health
  - General comments and feedback
Rudd Study Demographics

- **642** students from four regional campuses participated
  - 33% White, 30% Latino, 15% Asian, 14% Black
  - 68% female
  - 32% have < 2 other people living in their household
  - 25% regularly responsible for purchasing food for others
  - 59% currently have a paid job
  - 10% have a dependent
Rudd Findings: Prevalence of Food Insecurity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food security status (N=642)</th>
<th>Number of students (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High food security</td>
<td>356 (55.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginal food security</td>
<td>100 (15.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low food security</td>
<td>90 (14.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very low food security</td>
<td>96 (15.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rudd Findings: Disparities in Food Insecurity across Campuses

- **Waterbury**: 14.4% Very low, 18% Low, 57.6% Marginal, 10% High
- **Stamford**: 18.7% Very low, 13.1% Low, 57.6% Marginal, 10% High
- **Hartford**: 10.7% Very low, 14.3% Low, 57.6% Marginal, 10% High
- **Avery Point**: 14.5% Very low, 10.8% Low, 57.6% Marginal, 10% High

Legend:
- Very low food security
- Low food security
- Marginal food security
- High food security
Rudd Findings: Disparities in Food Insecurity across Race/Ethnicity

*Follow-up regression analyses indicate statistically significant differences in insecurity status of students identifying as White compared to a) Latino, b) Black, and c) Others*
Rudd Findings: Student Self-reported Academic performance across Food Security Status

- % High, Marginal, Low, Very low: I have missed class
- % High, Marginal, Low, Very low: I have missed class assignments
- % High, Marginal, Low, Very low: I have considered dropping a class
Rudd Findings: Student Self-reported Academic performance across Food Security Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Security Status</th>
<th>My grades are not as high as they could be</th>
<th>It has affected my academic scholarship eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My grades are not as high as they could be

It has affected my academic scholarship eligibility
Rudd Findings: Student Self-reported Academic performance across Food Security Status

As a result, I am on academic probation

I have considered dropping out of UConn
Rudd Findings: Student’s GPA across Food Security Status
Rudd Study: Relationship between Food Insecurity Status and Academic Performance?

- Food insecure students reported more negative academic behaviors such as missing class, missing assignments, academic probation, considering dropping out.
- Food insecure students had lower GPAs.
- Follow-up regression analyses indicated important linkages across ethnicity, food insecurity, and academic performance.
Rudd Study: Student perception of the food environment on or near campus (full sample)

- **Nutritional quality of food**
  - Very dissatisfied: 10.7%
  - Somewhat dissatisfied: 13.1%
  - Somewhat satisfied: 23.2%
  - Very satisfied: 15.1%
  - I do not know: 41.7%

- **Affordability of food**
  - Very dissatisfied: 10.7%
  - Somewhat dissatisfied: 23.2%
  - Somewhat satisfied: 15.1%
  - Very satisfied: 13.1%
  - I do not know: 37.9%

- **Availability of food**
  - Very dissatisfied: 10.7%
  - Somewhat dissatisfied: 23.2%
  - Somewhat satisfied: 15.1%
  - Very satisfied: 13.1%
  - I do not know: 37.9%
Rudd Study: Student Perspectives on Potential Improvements

- A café or restaurant: 54%
- A meal plan: 53.9%
- A place where local vendors sell food during mealtime: 52.8%
- Discounted subscription to a food delivery service to your home (like helloFresh): 37.1%
- Vending machine with hot food: 31.3%
- A food pantry: 30.5%
- Other (e.g., gift card for groceries, affordable groceries): 1.2%
Conclusions

1. 29% food insecurity among of regional campus students that took the survey

2. Disparities in food insecurity by regional campus
   - WTBY: 32%, STMFD: 31.8%, AVYPT: 25.3%, HRTFD:25%

3. Disparities in food insecurity by race/ethnicity
   - Students who are Black, Latinx, & “other” are 2x more likely to be food insecure

4. Negative academic performance of food insecure students linked to food insecurity

5. Students dissatisfied with Affordability (36%) & Accessibility (24%) of food options

6. Students preferred structural, long-term solutions to provide an Affordable and Accessible food option on campus such as a meal plan and/or café/restaurant