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Recommendation

Final vote

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2021-0028: Basic Needs Statement

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Recognizing that “70 percent of students at two-year institutions and 61 percent of students at four-year institutions faced either homelessness or housing or food insecurity in the previous year, and 39 percent of two-year students and 30 percent of four-year students were both food insecure and housing insecure.”

<https://www.aacu.org/aacu-news/newsletter/majority-college-students-experience-food-insecurity-housing-insecurity-or#:~:text=Overall%2C%2070%20percent%20of%20students,food%20insecure%20and%20housing%20insecure>

Recognizing that the rates of food insecurity for college students are more than three times the rate of that in all U.S. households, which was estimated to be 10.5% in 2019.

https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Hopecenter_RealCollegeDuringthePandemic.pdf

Emphasizing that during the COVID-19 pandemic, three in five college students experienced basic needs insecurity. Food Insecurity affected 44% at two-year institutions and 38% at four-year institutions.

Understanding that “Basic needs insecurities are directly correlated with poor academic outcomes. For example, several researchers have found that food insecurity is correlated with lower grades in college” (Hope4College). “Students who experienced food or housing insecurity were less likely to earn A’s and more likely to earn B’s, C’s, or below” (AACU).

<https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Wisconsin-HOPE-Lab-Still-Hungry-and-Homeless.pdf>

<https://www.aacu.org/aacu-news/newsletter/majority-college-students-experience-food-insecurity-housing-insecurity-or#:~:text=Overall%2C%2070%20percent%20of%20students,food%20insecure%20and%20housing%20insecure>

Recognizing that Use of public assistance or college resources is relatively uncommon among college students either because they don't know they exist, or because of the social stigma attached to utilizing these resources.

<https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Wisconsin-HOPE-Lab-Still-Hungry-and-Homeless.pdf>

Emphasizing that 15% of students at four year institutions were experiencing homelessness due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a large electronic multi-institutional survey administered by the Hope Lab from April to May 2020, twenty-one percent of respondents dealing with basic needs insecurity applied for unemployment insurance, 15% applied for SNAP, and 15% applied for emergency aid. But many students did not apply for support because they did not know they were eligible to do so.

https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Hopecenter_RealCollegeDuringthePandemic.pdf

Recognizing that Ithaca College has a wealth of basic needs resources, but has not designated an accessible or centralized main contact for students to reach out to when facing issues, such as food insecurity.

It is resolved that:

Section 1. A basic needs statement be added to all course syllabi at Ithaca College.

1. The statement should provide information about the basic needs resources that are available for students at Ithaca College

- a. Resources for food, housing, and financial insecurity should be included.

<https://www.ithaca.edu/student-affairs-and-campus-life/working-food-security>

<https://www.ithaca.edu/residential-life/off-campus-living/resources>

<https://www.ithaca.edu/student-affairs-and-campus-life/supporting-financial-security>

Section 2. The statement should designate a main person for students to contact when in need of support.

Example Statement:

Access to basic needs such as food and safe shelter are vital to a successful academic experience. If you are having difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or lack a safe and stable place to live, the following resources are provided to all members of the Ithaca College community:

Examples from other schools:

<https://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/hsrc/osu-basic-needs-statement>

<https://cte.virginia.edu/course-design-institute/sample-syllabi/basic-needs-security>

<https://www.colorado.edu/wgst/basic-needs-syllabus-statement>

<https://www.cocc.edu/departments/step/basic-needs-statement.aspx>

Guide to Creating a Basic Needs Statement:

https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/BTFP_SyllabusStatement_WelcomeSurvey.pdf

Basic Needs Resource Guide for IC Students:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAESrGyysKo/uBP5MQXco4KqBJXnEJYI4Q/view?utm_content=DAESrGyysKo&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton#1