



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### UC Students Demand Solutions to Student Hunger, Basic Needs

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The University of California Board of Regents heard reports and testimony Thursday on an unnecessary crisis of student basic needs like food, hunger, and mental health services. A recent study by the University of California Global Food Initiative found that **19%** of student respondents had very low food security, while another **23%** were considered to have low food security, as defined by the USDA. Further, the study showed that the prevalence of undergraduate students systemwide who faced a reduced quality of diet or reduced food intake was **49%**. Improving student success and completion rates through support for basic needs is both a social and economic imperative for the State of California.

UC Student Association President **Kevin Sabo** shared the testimonies Wednesday of nine brave students who want to put a human face on the detrimental impacts of student hunger. He reported to the Regents:

“Natalie, an out-of-state student who came to UC Santa Barbara because she read that it was the happiest campus in the country, told us that she found herself struggling to pay for her most basic needs. Natalie was evicted from on-campus housing, spent a quarter houseless and working more than 45 hours per week, and subsisting on power bars and popcorn. As another UC student Julia put it: ‘We are the economic drivers of tomorrow. But the UC doesn’t see us as human; as people with basic needs that aren’t being met.’”

Kevin Sabo and a number of students facing food insecurity at the UC are available for comment by contacting the UCSA Communications Director at 510-282-0984 and commdirector@ucsa.org.

#### Link to Global Food Initiative Study:

<http://www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/best-practices/food-access-security/index.html>

#### Link to UCSA's food testimony project “A Plate at the Table”:

<http://ucsa.org/food-project/>

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