

Café Salon Notetakers' Template for Café Salon #2 - Melissa Schick, Notetaker
#2 Food behavior, food politics, and the historical culture of food (obesity, food deserts, famine, diversity issues - Facilitators: Kathleen Gorman, Ingrid Lofgren
- Commuter Lounge – 3rd floor

Summary Notes

1. *What would it look like for URI to take leadership in this area?*
2. *How does work in this topic open up research/scholarly activity across disciplines? - Who is already working on this topic?*

Groups developed ideas for research across disciplines:

- Focusing on traditional/culturally appropriate diets
 - Sustainable agriculture food systems (e.g., environmental contamination impacting ability for groups to fish in historically cultural fishing areas)
 - Nutrition and food sciences - research focusing on whether nutritional needs are able to be met by these diets
 - Anthropology and archaeology
 - Writing and rhetoric - focusing on question of “what is a heritage diet”
- Focusing on food behaviors at the URI community/experiences of students within URI
 - How do we best support specific populations in our community - need to hear from these groups what they identify as their specific challenges or barriers:
 - Graduate students, neuro atypical students
 - International students (by status and origin)
 - Long-term illness that doesn't lend itself well to our academic calendar (e.g., eating disorders that require time off to access treatment)
 - Development of an interdisciplinary database to connect students to whatever support services/areas that they would require - including all information regarding individual's expertise that may be helpful to support students through their struggles
 - Who on this campus knows something about eating disorders (for example) across departments/disciplines/areas of the URI community
 - Interfolio system
 - Athletics has something already existing - mentorship database (reach out to faculty members who are potential mentors to enter their information about what they do, what their background is, and what areas they can mentor in)
- Innovative strategies for healthy living that promote individual and community-level health
 - Important areas on campus: Sustainable agriculture and food systems, Nutrition, Psychology, Marketing, Communications, Student Life, Dining Services, Residential Life

- For people trying to make healthy choices but who, for whatever reason, just need access to food
 - Looking at drivers for some of these things at individual/cultural/societal level (e.g, food advertising)
- How do we get important information about food availability and healthy food choices out there?

Who is already working on this topic on campus?

Nutrition and Food Sciences - research focusing on the role of food in disease progression

Kinesiology - research focusing on obesity (noted that we have made little progress towards the goal of addressing obesity as a country) and related disease progression; interest in food insecurity among college student populations

Nursing - research focusing on disordered eating disorders, link between food insecurity and obesity, work focusing on food sovereignty (e.g., returning to traditional diet) with the Narragansett tribe and nutrition/food-related health disparities

Writing and Rhetoric - research and teaching focusing on the intersection of food and culture (e.g., symbolic and cultural meanings assigned to food, why we eat what we do)

Environment and Life Sciences - working with farmers and food processors relating to food safety issues, and with low-income families related to quality of life and nutrition, provide leadership for the URI Food Center

Feinstein Hunger Center - research focusing on reasons for food insecurity in diverse populations (i.e., locally, nationally, internationally) and outcomes stemming from experiencing food insecurity

Student Affairs - working with students on issues related to food insecurity (e.g., access to food among undergraduates living in on-campus housing and access to food/food choices among graduate students) and food behaviors (e.g., disordered eating behaviors among college students - impact of disordered eating on cognition and cognitive functioning within a higher academic functioning)

Multicultural Student Services - interest in food access among international students on-campus, questions related to whether students have access to the food that they need to feel welcome and at home

3. *What is the right breadth of areas to be covered?*

4. *What are the University's strengths that would build out this topic well?*

- People at the university across departments are invested in focusing their time, energy, and effort on this topic
- Community engagement: relationships have been developed with members of nearby Narragansett tribe to collaborate on important projects in this area (e.g., heritage diet, food sovereignty)

5. *What areas of the topic would be a main focus for URI?*

Consensus from group members about interest and importance of examining topics related to:

- Food security and behaviors on the URI campus, including:
 - Student access to culturally-appropriate foods
 - Disordered eating behaviors (impacts on health, cognitive functioning)
 - Supporting undergraduate and graduate students struggling with food insecurity and struggle to access nutritious, culturally-appropriate food
 - Helping students to become more aware/get more information about what is actually available to them on campus (and to help the university community in general know what is out there to send students to and what types of initiatives they can get involved in)
- Food health-related issues outside of the URI community
- Culture and food