

University of California, Irvine

Real Food Series Community Dinner

April 16, 2009. 5:00-8:00pm. UCI Dining Mesa Commons Silverado Room.

Collaborators: [UCI Dining](#) and Hospitality, [UCI Mesa Court Housing](#), [UCI Center for Service in Action](#), [UCI Center for Unconventional Security Affairs](#), [UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems](#), [The Ecology Center](#), Real Food Challenge @ UCI

Dinner Feedback Survey Results and Organizer Feedback

Compiled by Real Food Challenge @ UCI

Final numbers:

- 51 People RSVP'ed
- 62 People in Attendance
- 18 Walk-In's
- 80 People on Total List (RSVP's, Attendance, Walk-in's, No-Shows)
- 18 People Provided Survey Results (26% of those Attended), as of April 29, 2009

Survey Results

Initial Clothes Pin Feedback Survey at Dinner (21 people)	5.00 / 5.00
Food (taste, flavor, service, ingredients)	4.78 / 5.00
Event Atmosphere (People, immediate space, timing of event)	4.44 / 5.00
Flow of Event (Types of activities, transitions from one activity to the next)	4.24 / 5.00
Usefulness of Event (Was your time well spent? Were you engaged?)	4.18 / 5.00

17 / 18 (94.5%) of Survey Respondents said "Yes" to considering attending another RF Series Event

1 / 18 (5.5%) of Survey Respondents said "Maybe" to considering going to another RF Series Event

One major concept, idea, or question survey respondents took from the Real Food Community Dinner

- Scale and Industry
 - *Are we able to provide the food served at the Real Food Community Dinner to our entire university community? Can the supply meet the demand? What does it take for the UCI community to demand sustainable food? Can the local area supply it?*
 - *How food is related to a wide range of industries.*
 - *Sustainable food and ingredients are not a new concept to chefs and they have been working for years and years on how to serve healthy, sustainable, organic and delicious food. We are trying to transport organic food and resources from Santa Cruz back here because their agricultural system would hopefully benefit us.*
 - *The role of population growth in increasing challenges with food sustainability and security.*
- Community
 - *That this many people in Orange County is just not sustainable.*
 - *Given our location in Southern California, we are surrounded by opportunity because there are so many pervasive challenges to achieving food sustainability in an area with high population density yet sprawling development that also happens to be (effectively) a desert.*
 - *Just that we ALL need to do our part, whatever that looks like.*
- Environmental needs

- *Need for more biodiversity* in the food that we eat. We mainly rely on 3-4 crops and these are all coming from certain areas. We don't think about the effects of transporting those crops to our markets. Instead we can be eating local crops. We don't think about how food affects environment.
- Next Steps
 - Having an *organic garden* either on campus or an area accessible by the community.
 - The *difficulty in implementing change* and *looking at the realities of the challenges and opportunities*

Favorite part of the Real Food Community Dinner

- Dinner and Food
 - I *didn't believe cafeteria food could be so good*.
 - *Time* to discuss with other people at the table.
 - Delicious.
 - Excellent.
 - Great that it was *produced locally*.
 - The food was delicious and I *loved how it was healthy and organic*. It truly encourages me to eat healthier and to know that I have options for both healthy AND delicious food
- Guest Panelists
 - It was quite *interesting to hear from multiple experts* in the field of food production and distribution. I was really interested the different perspectives as provided by the chef, the farmer, and the social ecologist. They were all quite interesting and insightful and provided interesting perspectives.
 - *Informative*; shows how people are making an effort to work to get sustainable food here and to spread awareness about it
 - Very informative and engaging.
 - I've heard some of the facts they were talking about during the panel discussion but I forgot about them. Hearing these facts again reminded me that I should be more selective when I'm grocery shopping
- World Cafe and Roundtable Discussion
 - It was good to hear other people *bring ideas about food sustainability in an incredibly organic way*.
 - Chatting and networking with other "Real Foodies" because it *provides a lot of support for the lifestyle and choices I make regarding food*.
 - Hearing about what people think should happen and challenges we are facing
 - Seemed to provoke the "new" to sustainability students to personal action with their contact spheres.

Least Favorite part of the Real Food Community Dinner:

- Amplification
 - It was *hard to hear the guest speakers* due to the setup of the room. Perhaps microphones or better table layouts would help.
 - it was *extremely difficult to hear* the speakers
 - I had reservations that people in the back couldn't hear the panelists and facilitators due to the *noise and lack of amplification*.
- Questions from the Audience during Guest Panel
 - *Not allowing time for others to speak*, and not allowing time for many questions from the audience. It would have been nice to implement some time allowance.
- World Cafe
 - seemed *too forced*
 - should have been *shorter 2-3 questions* instead of 4
 - *less moving* around. People were way antzy by then.
 - The rotations were too fast; you had barely the time to get to know the other people and to exchange ideas.

- The last round table I was at -- the *people at our table just showed up for a late meal* and didn't know what was going on.
- This this isn't a monthly event

General Comments from Event Participants at Dinner

- Great! Again! Again!
- Good job!
- Well done. Continue your community developing efforts!
- Very enjoyable and informative.
- Great event. Great host. Great schedule & organization.
- This was such a great meeting. Though a small group, it was well-organized and efficient. Super effective! This kind of stuff makes me appreciate life so much. I'm for sure inspired and I'm spreading the word.
- Thanks! I thought the small group discussion format worked well. I will try applying it in OCSCB. I was inspired. Thanks!
- Great event. Food was delicious. Discussion was enlightening. We should do this every month! Thanks!
- This was a great opportunity to meet new people with similar ideas and with which to share ideas/visions - it was great.
- Yeah; let's do it again. I would pay for food like this.
- AMAZING!!!
- This is a great event; I think there should be more of this to a greater number of students!!!
GOOD JOB!