

**Create a University "barter" system where our campus community comes together to offer services and/or products.**

**CURRENT CHALLENGE:**

Lack of human interaction, social isolation and overall lack of community on campus across different colleges and departments and between students and staff and faculty.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION:**

There is no one solution to any problem, however I have an idea that I firmly believe can unify this University in a bold way to bring everyone together, highlight personal talents and skills and make this University stand out from any other. My idea is to create a University 'barter system' in the most literal term. We could call it the 'Bold Bulldog Barter' or the 'Bold Bulldog Exchange'. This would be an online platform- we might even be able to use Blackboard, where our campus community comes together to offer services and/or products. For example, let's say I've always wanted to take guitar lessons, I would search 'guitar lessons' and maybe it's a band student or a fellow staff member that teaches how to play the guitar (in their spare time) that I find and I reach out for lessons. There would be a 'currency', maybe 'Bold Bucks' and that is how we exchange for services and/or products. So one guitar lesson would cost 10 'Bold Bucks' (for example). In order to earn/possess 'Bold Bucks', I too have to provide services/products to earn or I could make a donation to the University in exchange for 'Bold Bucks' if I don't have a service to provide, or I don't have time to provide my service or product. We all have a talent or skill to offer, some gift to give to this campus community. How amazing to bring students, professors and staff members all together to meet and learn from each other? This would support entrepreneurship among our students and ourselves. Everyone could be involved and the possibilities are endless.

**BENEFITS TO FRESNO STATE:**

This solution could add so much to this already amazing campus. We would all meet students, staff and faculty that we might never have met before. This smaller campus could become a community of friends and familiar faces. There is also the economic advantage. Those utilizing the system would save money. Their 'real dollars' could be saved instead of spent on these extracurricular activities or products. There is also the environmental impact as well. All barter or exchanges would need to take place on campus (for safety) so there would be less pollution since travel would be minimized. We could designate specific locations on campus for such exchanges or study areas. In addition, this would save time as well because there is no time lost in traffic or travel time. This also has the ability to act as a donation booster. Like previously mentioned, if someone wants to donate to the University in exchange for 'Bold Bucks' that would be available to them. However, the biggest benefit to Fresno State would be that the implementation of this program would make us all a true community. Honoring our diversity, highlighting our talents and skills, networking, harvesting relationships, becoming more socially aware and working as a team. This idea perfectly exemplifies every aspect of our mission and vision of 'Discovery. Diversity. Distinction' for the University.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Here are some ore examples of exchanges: The Horticulture Greenhouses & Nursery Department could teach gardening classes, the Health and Human Services College could teach sign language classes, there could be tutoring services offered (making them available for those students who may not be able to afford private help). It could be used to learn other languages...students of the ESL program could partner up with English speakers who want to learn their (the ESL student's) native language. Maybe there is a student that makes organic homemade soap, they could exchange that for a yoga class, or time with a professional on campus to review their resume before graduation. The opportunities for exchange are endless. Let's be bold together and make this program a reality where everyone can benefit as a community.