

Food Services Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes 11/29/2010

Attendees: Michael Harding, Marianela Acuna Arreaza, Linda Keng, Rebecca Szwarc, Sharon Bode, Tushar Chawla, Michael Nguyen, Bryan Haver, Emily Messa, Esmeralda Valdez, Deborah Marks, Maria Honey, Jonas Chin, Tony Urso, Geoff Herbert, Misty Pierce

- I. Address from the Committee Chairman Michael Harding
 - A. Things are getting better, dining halls have improved significantly over the year
 - B. Keep in mind the big picture, rather than going in circles about the dining situation
 - C. Want to make sure that we continue to make an impact on the Cougar dining experience
 1. Keep raising the bar so that we continue to keep
 2. Want to stay focused on ensuring services based on the value
- II. Approval of New Meal Plan Pricing Proposal presented by Geoff Herbert
 - A. Today's proposal with reductions and looked at the consumer price index, average is about 3%, match the current price index and gave it some room, tried to be conservative during this time and make sure that the program is not vulnerable as far as wear and tear
 - B. Made the initial proposal based on data, used a CPI number, a window of the projections – in the middle, looking far out as far as the impact
 - C. Went back from impact from the committee, lowest end of the projections on the CPI, labor was reduced
 - D. Went by the bottom range rather than the mid range
 - E. 1,610 for the lifestyle meal plans, forty dollar reduction
 - F. Discussion
 1. Linda Keng and Rebecca Szwarc presented– ideas for increasing revenues and saving money for the future
 - a. Suggestions for increasing revenues and advertising and saving money
 - b. Raise base cost of individual meals, but give UH students a discount 10-20%
 - c. Open one dining hall during times when students aren't in class at least for lunch
 - d. Please ask Aramark to look in local food distributors
 - e. Good discussion to start, maybe some ideas for the future
 - f. Formation of subcommittee to research the suggestions brought forth by Rebecca Szwarc and Linda Keng
 - G. Called to a vote, seconded and called to question to approve the new proposal
 1. Three votes to Three votes
 - H. Reminder to the committee, there is a timeline, what are the issues with the newly proposed plan
 1. Want to make sure that the increase is fair, want to make sure the public is aware
 2. This proposal due to the timing, have to do it quicker than usual, we have to do projections, took the lowest number for the projections
 3. The students asked about roll over – will have to talk about the next residential dining hall area
 - a. This would have to go into a total restructure of the meal plan program, cannot do that at this time
 4. Next semester, will be refocusing on the next phase for residential dining

- a. Can look in meal plans and a larger discussion, reach out to folks nationally and good discussions
 - b. National issue and the rest of the country is doing
 - 5. Donated meal programs, a subcommittee and dig into, it takes awhile in order for these ideas to evolve
 - 6. The program is a whole, people do eat everywhere
- I. Proposal to committee
 - 1. Communication is important and if the committee cannot show the public the direction of the committee for meal plans, a good deal of frustration happens when there isn't enough clear information
 - 2. Important today to have a meal plan to present to the public, will be going in front of public tuition and fee forum in January, need to plan
 - 3. Recommendation- to vote to approve this new meal plan proposal contingent that there is a public town hall
- J. Recommendation was seconded, voting called to question and the meal plan prices were approved unanimously 7-0 contingent upon hosting a town hall meeting in January
 - 1. Will need FSAC members to come and participate in the Town Hall
- III. Other Business
 - A. Naming at Moody Towers?
 - 1. Did not receive very many suggestions appropriate for the renaming Dining Hall
 - 2. People getting used to say Fresh Food Company
 - 3. Can discuss some more at the next meeting

Note- Dr. Bode was present only for the second vote, making her the seventh voting member