

Blue Ribbon Committee Charge, Public Statement

The existing dining program at MIT is complex: it provides a lot of options, serves a number of constituents, and seeks to meet a variety of needs. The Blue Ribbon Committee on dining has been convened to examine that structure and to determine what the dining structure at MIT *should* look like in the years to come. This is an advisory group, not a decision-making body. In the end, this committee will provide recommendations for dining options on campus.

The purpose of a dining program is about more than just providing food. There is a nutritional aspect that recognizes the relationship between sound nutrition and learning ability, an aspect that encourages social engagement over meals, and a community-building aspect that says meals should bring students as participant of a larger Institute family, not just residents of one house or region of campus. Meals should promote a broader sense of community and break down stereotypes. They should also offer students an opportunity to interact with faculty in an informal learning environment.

The charge to this committee is:

- To review/assess our current model, programs, locations, menus, etc. in order to fully understand what MIT currently has in place.
- To review/assess MIT's current pricing model for appropriateness, perceived value, sustainability, etc.
- To gather data on how MIT students, graduate and undergraduate, spend money to food, looking at how they eat, when they eat, where they eat and what they eat.
- To assess the impact of the food trucks, Lobdell Food Court, MacGregor Convenience Store, Forbes Family Café, and other retail operations on residential dining.
- To explore other delivery and pricing models.

This committee's work is much broader than simply looking at the residential dining programs as they exist and try to tweak them. If the committee starts and ends there it will have done a lot of work without accomplishing a lot. The group will need to look at many different variables and the overall system to make recommendations that will strengthen and improve the MIT Residential Dining system as a whole.