

UA Committee on Dining Minutes 2.24.10

- In attendance
 - Jonte Craighead '13
 - Adam Bockelie '11
 - Sivakami Sambasivam '11
 - Krishna Esteva '13
 - Paula Trepman '13
- Absent
 - Amanda David '13 (excused)
 - Leslie Chan '13 (excused)
 - Ryan Rosario '12 (excused)
 - Sam Rodarte '13 (excused)
- Updates
 - Krishna-Food Trucks
 - I want to speak with Rich Berlin first.
Adam: I have no problem with you emailing him. What would you like to find out from him?
 - What our options are? Who else do I need to speak with
 - Lobdell-Sivikami
 - Opening up closed Lobdell area for dinner? Why? Is there a demand? Is there a cost of keeping it open?
Jonte: what about people who should not be there?
 - What is the demand of changing the hours of Lobdell? Are the workers unionized? What about the staffed workers? Are they unionized? What about staggered hours?
Paula: There are definitely are specific windows during which people want to buy food so there could be advantages
Adam: there is an associated time cost associated with opening and closing
 - Get in touch with Philip Walsh of the CAC about student center
 - How do we dig through the UA Locker
 - Not a good idea to have preferred dining in the student center
 - We want healthier food options in the student center.
 - Krishna: I think the options in the student center are fairly healthy i.e. Subway,
 - Jamba juice instead of Dunkin Donuts or Anna's or Cambridge Grill?
 - Adam: Thoughts about opening extra dining area?
 - Ryan: I think we should open the extra dining area if we extend dining hours of food locations in Lobdell. Subway is open until 11pm. You may want to talk to them to ask about demand later in the evening
 - Adam: How can we go about assessing demand?
 - Sivikami: It isn't there job to be feeding us late night food.
 - Adam: Find out when these places are ACTUALLY open versus what is listed on the UA website: Dunkin, Café Spice, Subway, Baker Dining

Ryan: If these places are not open as much as they say they are, this may be an indication that there is not an adequate demand

Paula: I think we may not want dinner options open later. Instead we should try to get a late night venue for people to go

Krishna: It may be valuable to have one option open late every night

- Breakfast survey data-Amanda. research on dining data. Institute archives will help us with data. We will meet with them on Friday
- Pritchett-Ryan
 - Combed over data and excel files and looked at past data on Pritchett. We found that Pritchett excluded grad students because it was made for people on the dining plan. Ideas came from EC Housemasters blog. Possibilities: grocery store? Late-night venue? Specialty stores? How expensive would it be?
 - West Campus students tend to eat out late while EC people eat out
 - 40% of MIT population at La Verde's as a supplement to their groceries from Trader Joe's and Shaw's
 - Adam: Good idea. Proximity to EC and Senior House. Only problem is that we need to establish Pritchett as a destination.
Jonte: Is EC produce market going to move back to EC Courtyard?
Would this compete with the produce market?
Adam: Chinese food place that delivers is on hold for Pritchett
 - Another idea would be to have specialty vendors to make Pritchett a location i.e. Jamba Juice, etc. Want to avoid EC student center
 - We may not want to have a survey since a lot of data already exists. But communication with students is important for success of location
Paula: We have money for surveys. I think it is really important to have a survey at least once the options are narrowed down. This will insure that the venue will be successful
- Budget for meetings
 - \$350 for food
 - \$300 for surveys
 - \$50 for publicity
 - Ryan: What is appropriate budget for a survey?
 - Adam? \$50 is an appropriate budget. The amount of total prizes available has not shown much correlation with survey responses. But we do not want to run many superfluous surveys

Questions:

- Krishna: Is anything happening with breakfast?
Adam: No, it got shut down due to financial problems
- Ryan: what should I be thinking about for meeting with Rich Berlin? Is this a brainstorming session?

Adam: I would flesh out two or three ideas you think have promise for Pritchett so you can broach the subject with him