

## UA Committee on Dining Minutes 4.06.10

- In Attendance
  - Jonte Craighead '13
  - Paula Trepman '13
  - Amanda David '13
  - Ryan Rosario '12
  - Samuel Rodarte '13
  - Leslie Chan '13
  - Sivakami Sambasivam '11
  - Adam Bockelie '11
- Updates
  - Food Trucks
    - Adam: Krishna and I met with MIT Facilities. Part of facilities is totally fine with the food trucks moving and the other part is not alright with it. They said they would get back to us in two or three weeks. I think they'll get back to us on time, but they'll say no very creatively. They said if some trucks started parking there they thought other trucks would want to start parking there (service trucks, etc.)
  - Breakfast Report
    - Paula: Amanda did a great job with the breakfast report and we passed it during the Senate meeting last night.
  - HDAG:
    - Jonte: Senate asked questions. The gist I got was that HDAG is being presented with plans
    - Adam: HDAG was given financial estimates for three plans and can change parameters for student desires and we're making changes based on what students request. Right now it is 7 dinners and 14 meals a week. I asked them to change it to 10 meals a week with 14 possible meetings a week. As far as student involvement goes, students have been fairly vocal and at least half of the meeting last week was student dominated and it was pretty equal this week.
    - Ryan: How was the reception by Senators?
    - Adam: The other representatives are not senators, just the dining chair. There hasn't been a discussion with the committee about the structure of the committee itself. But in general the student representatives have been pretty vocal, for example, when it was discussed that they would serve all meals, the Simmons representatives spoke up. Some of the Housemasters need a little convincing
    - Jonte: One of the reasons why I was kind of upset is that the idea bank was supposed to be out in mid-March and they just put it up today. This pushes dates back
    - The houses are each supposed to have a meeting with their housemasters and there will be a fifth for those living in non-dining dorms. I will be there along with Columbo probably and some other administrators

- Jonte: Is it closed to people in that house?
- Adam: It will not be overtly advertised to non-house-dining dorm members, but they cannot keep it completely closed. I am organizing the fifth one along with Sammi Wyman, and that will take place the week after CPW.
- Lobdell Survey
  - Siv: We just wanted to check the hours for the Lobdell locations with Rich Berlin and Phil Walsh suggest that we display it near the elevators where people sell tickets. I just want to make sure Rich Berlin has the same times as we do. Café spice closes before 8pm fairly regularly, when they are listed to be open. We are going to send the survey to Institutional Research (IR). We want a place where people can relax and eat.
  - Adam: What about the Lobdell food court area?
  - Siv: For dinner, it is rented out. One survey question is if you eat in Large Lobdell and how can we make it a better place to eat. And we asked about lighting and he said that wouldn't take 2 years, but this would be more difficult if lighting affected plumbing?
  - Adam: So we should ask them to do things gradually
  - Siv: Just things that don't affect each other. I think putting in new furniture and changing the lights?
  - Paula: Is there money for this?
  - Siv: He says if there's a need, we can get money to update it. And people still use it. For some reason, people never think to use large Lobdell
  - Adam: So what are the problems with it?
  - Siv: Well I personally don't have a problem with it, but maybe
  - Adam: It's really busy at lunch. That would be a battle with people who reserve the space right now. But Lobdell itself, which has rickety tables, etc., could use an update. He said we want to know what the students want. We are trying to shorten the survey right now. It is fairly long
  - Adam: Why don't we read over it and give feedback on questions
  - Ryan: IR said 1 to 5 is dangerous for importance because one number is usually neutral, but they have to have some type of importance.
  - Adam: So first is just standard demographics. Both surveys should definitely be sent together.
  - Paula: We may want to stray away from having too many fill-in-the-blanks because it makes it difficult for acquiring data
  - Leslie: Would you be willing to pay more for organic food? Should be added
  - Jonte: You could say ask just one question: Are organic and sustainable food sources important to you? And for the options one could be "yes and I'd be willing to pay more for it"
  - Ryan: You should ask "Do you think it's important to have healthy options?"
  - Adam: I think you need to decide that there is a problem and then you can address how to fix it? For where do you eat, change Large Lobdell to "Lobdell Dining Room"

- Paula: What do you mean by nicer seating? You may want to ask if people have had specific problems i.e. have the tables been rickety, etc.
- Ryan: The “buying food” option should be specified to “convenience in the primary purpose for buying food in the student center
- Adam: Specify Lobdell Dining hall to be open for dinner
- Ryan: The question seems oddly placed. You keep asking If there something wrong
- Paula: There may be response bias
- Ryan: If you have a least option, you should have a most option. When you say “service” so you mean speed
- Siv: I mean professionalism, etc. People have expressed a problem with Subway
- Ryan: The question about satisfaction should go in the beginning to avoid bias.