

Minutes of The Food Services Committee

1:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 22, 2015
Student Affairs Conference Room, GUC 207

The Food Services Committee met on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 in Room 207A of the Guillot University Center. The following members were present: Dr. Ulrich Groetsch (Chair, faculty), Dr. Jenny Dawson (faculty), Mr. Jermaine Ferguson (staff, University Residences), Mr. Bret Jennings (staff, at-large), Ms. Sarah Stevens (staff, International Affairs), Mr. Jordan Cooper (SGA), Ms. Ambur Love (SGA), Mr. David Shields (Vice President for Student Affairs), and Ms. Gwen Burney (general manager, Sodexo).

Chair Groetsch called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for today's meeting was approved unanimously after proper motion and second.

Welcome Members and Introductions

Chair Groetsch welcomed committee members and each introduced themselves.

Committee Charge

The committee charge was briefly reviewed by Chair Groetsch.

Election of Vice Chair

Chair Groetsch opened the floor for nominations of the Food Services Committee Vice Chair, who will serve as chair for 2016-2017. Dr. Jenny Dawson volunteered to serve. Upon motion by Ms. Stevens and second by Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Jennings, Dr. Dawson was elected unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2015

Chair Groetsch presented the minutes for committee's approval. Upon proper motion and second, the minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business

Sodexo Manager Update/Report – Ms. Burney addressed the committee with updates in management of Sodexo. She is now general manager. A new chef was hired but they are now seeking another; the regional check is here for the gap to make some immediate changes.

Meal Plans: New meal plans are in place. Hours of operation in Towers are continuous from 7:00 a.m. through 8:30 p.m. This reduces the bottleneck at peak hours and the variety of meal options is still there. These measures were put in place to accommodate the higher student population.

Breakfast: The Food Court in the GUC is no longer open mornings from 7-10 a.m.; only Einstein's is available early morning. The Food Court opens at 10:00 a.m. and now has a late night service of 8-11 p.m., in collaboration with University Event's Game Room. Ms. Burney was asked why the decision to not open Food Court. For the fall semester opening, from 7-10 a.m. averaged 20-25 customers (avg. <\$2/person) and late night 8-11 p.m. averaged 85-90 customers.

Towers' breakfast service has added a yogurt bar and made changes to freshen the look based on customer demand.

New Brochure: The Sodexo brochure will be printed in more than one language. Ms. Stevens stated that Chinese and Arabic students are the largest populations.

Healthy Options: Chair Groetsch added that students have commented they would like healthier options—not fried entrées-- especially after gym workouts. Ms. Burney said that healthier pizza toppings and crust are upcoming as part of their Mindful option. Chair Groetsch commented that research is showing that healthier eating increases the student's attention span and there is less aggressive behavior. Ms. Burney offered that they are talking about a protein smoothie machine; Ms. Love added that the Student Rec Center is ideal for an island oasis protein smoothie setup. Students in College of Nursing and College of Education and Human Sciences want healthy vending since they try to live what they are taught, according to Dr. Dawson. Mr. Jennings asked if Sodexo can offer vending so fresh fruits are rotated.

Third Rock Café: Food service in Science and Technology Building includes Nescafé espresso, rotisserie hot dog, “Take Three” packaged entrée, Simply-To-Go, and soups. WOW has a growing menu and outdoor umbrella tables with added lighting allow late night hours. Starbucks is promoting more food sales and has students’ art displayed on coffee cups.

To-Go Processes: Sodexo is working with SGA on a campaign of re-usable to-go packaging at Towers. Mr. Cooper stated that they have researched and are considering something similar to a library system for re-usable, washable containers. Ms. Burney is working on logistics and the price to charge. This effort helps boost their sustainability efforts and they will launch a campaign.

Mr. Cooper added remarks from SGA’s president that students are dissatisfied with long lines at Einstein’s and Chick-Fil-A for breakfast and they asked that early-morning hours resume at GUC Food Court. Ms. Burney informed the committee that the previous breakfast biscuit to-go item was an impromptu offering but was non-compliant and had to discontinue.

Mr. Ferguson inquired about C-Store no longer offering salad as they did last year. Ms. Burney is expecting it will return when things level out after a new chef is hired.

Mr. Cooper expressed concerns that long lines need help. Mr. Shields asked how lines could be managed when customer just wants plain black coffee or Simply-To-Go. Could configuration be altered or use portable POS? Otherwise, customer is in line for custom orders. Line management and staffing are key concerns. Ms. Burney concurred and will address. A portable POS would be ideal and she is discussing with Cindy Conlon about locations at Science and Technology Building, Towers, and others.

Coffee shop in Collier Library – Suggestion has been made to use carafes that are library-safe, like in Science and Technology Building but smaller. This item is deferred to next meeting for Mr. Carter’s input.

What to do with Stone Lodge – The next food services contract will include ideas for Stone Lodge. It is in a major traffic flow. Could it be used for some type food service such as bistro or C-Store format? Since there is no water nor restrooms at Stone Lodge, the University will need to look at adding facilities. According to Mr. Jennings, Stone Lodge is used heavily. There are many student events that use food but the building is not under Sodexo, so he questions how to balance the two. This item is deferred to next meeting for Mr. Carter’s participation.

Future expansion plans of Towers Cafeteria – Deferred to next meeting.

Other food concepts to consider (burrito, salad, sushi, etc.) — Deferred to next meeting for Mr. Carter to address and expand on the topic.

Breakfast hours at Food Court – Addressed in earlier discussions at this meeting.

Off-campus dining options and discounts -- Mr. Ferguson stated that students comment to him about the need to use their Mane Card at local dining facilities and about discounts for students who show their Mane Card. Mr. Shields elucidated that in the past, local participating vendors had to purchase a \$900 card reader so that Lion Loot could be used for purchases. Businesses had to buy newer models each time Mane Card software was updated and the business level from students did not make it affordable to continually buy new card readers.

Mr. Jennings suggested that maybe a discount card could be implemented. Businesses are selected and SGA sells the discount card for \$5 or more, like food coupons. Even adding local grocer, dry cleaners, and discount stores to the program. This could be an SGA auxiliary fundraiser. This idea received enthusiastic consensus from the committee.

Announcements

All concurred that meetings remain on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. in GUC Room 207A.

Dates are October 27 and November 17. There is no meeting for December 2015. Spring semester meeting dates will be determined later.

Adjourn

Chair Groetsch adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:40 p.m. by consensus.