

Minutes
Dining Services Advisory Committee
Meeting
Nov. 13, 2009

Attending Members: Bill Dalton, Ben Southard, Steve Childers, Kathy Nester, Amanda Mollet, Matthew Clem, Ohene Amponsem, Amber Dinges, Bridgett Bishop

Bill Dalton opened the meeting and let the committee know that he is the designated administrator responsible for calling the first committee meeting. Mr. Dalton provided a brief history of the committee and its function. Mr. Dalton also stated that members are expected to do meal evaluations each year and this has been very valuable feedback to Dining Services.

After each member present introduced themselves and stated who they represented, the meeting was open to discussion. As there was no set agenda for the first meeting and no known pressing issues with food service at this time, a general discussion followed.

Students on the committee were asked their opinion on RU Dining Services. Amber Dinges let the committee know that students have asked about having more variety in the late night options. Current hours have Chick-fil-A open until midnight Monday – Thursday and 1 a.m. on Friday. Salsarita's, Wild Gingers and Sushi are open until 1 a.m. on Saturdays and midnight on Sundays. Starbucks is open until 10 p.m. every night. Amber also let the committee know students did not like the elimination of take-out in Dalton Hall. Ben Southard explained that this was done at the direction of the local health department and that Dining Services preferred not to eliminate take-out but really had no choice.

Other issues discussed were slow service from the sandwich area in Dalton Main Dining area plus the half pans in Dalton sometimes slowing down service. Mr. Southard stated he will look into both issues.

Steve Childers stated he likes that Dining Services now has the partition wall in front of the dish accumulator. Dr. Childers stated that it is much nicer to have all those dishes hidden when dining on that side of the room.

Students did state that Dining Services has made progress with the quality of food improving. Positive comments have been received on a new young chef, Tim Brower and Mr. Southard stated that Executive Chef Brian Mann continues to do an excellent job.

A few other points discussed during the meeting were:

- Chicken wings changed from bone to boneless at Wild Gingers which has been well received.
- ABP McConnell now closes at 8 p.m. Monday - Thursday and Chartwells is looking at possibly expanding these hours to midnight.
- Holiday Thanksgiving Theme Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th.
- Chick-fil-A workers have had reputations for being really friendly and service oriented, this continues again this year
- Ben & Jerry's - doing about the same dollar volume as the old "Freshens", however, comments from students have been much more positive
- Hot Asian Concept - Dining Services received comments last year about being too greasy, this year have had negatives comments about it having too many vegetables, but of course this was to make it a healthier option.
- Ben provided information regarding the iPod Touches Survey – Dining Services has 10 of them to use.

Prior to adjourning, Amber Dinges was elected Chair for this year and accepted even though she had previously served as Chair. Londa Alley (unable to attend today) will serve as recording secretary to do the minutes.

Meeting adjourned and agreed by committee to schedule next meeting for January.