House Dining Committee Meeting Summary  
Wednesday, May 16, 2012  
Maseeh Hall

In attendance:  
Alyssa May  
Antonio Moreno  
Barbara Hoffman  
Grace Krusell  
Jess Bolandrina  
Jessica Yang  
Julie Rothhaar  
Katherine Silvestre  
Kathryn Hess  
Kelly McDonald  
Lauren Patterson  
Michael Myers  
Michael Plasmeier

Agenda:  
I. Review of minutes  
   a. No changes were made to last week's meeting minutes
II. Discussion of “Green Box” usage  
   a. Bon Appétit distributed a chart detailing Green Box usage for the fall semester, the spring semester, and the 2011-2012 year.  
      i. Green box (take-out meals) percentages increased from the fall to the spring.  
   b. Bon Appétit had purchased nearly 6,000 Green Boxes for the program.  
   c. The return rate is low, and presents potential problems in the buildings.  
      i. Housemasters, and others, have complained about finding the Green Boxes dirty or with food in them throughout residence halls.  
      ii. Unreturned green boxes can mold or attract pests.
   d. According to Bon Appétit, students are allowed two Green Boxes when on the program: one in their possession and one behind the counter for them to receive when returning the other box.  
   e. According to the dining chairs, cashiers feel sympathetic to students and allow them to take out another Green Box without returning the one in their possession.
   f. HDC proposed instituting a system similar to the towel card system at the gym in the Zesiger Center.  
      i. Gym members buy a towel card for $4 and exchange it for a towel.  
      ii. When they are done, they return the towel and get their card back for another use.
      iii. If they do not return the towel and wish to receive another one, they must purchase another towel card.
   g. HDC discussed the pros and cons of the current system against instituting a card system. Bon Appétit, at the suggestion of an HDC member, will look into other colors for the Green Boxes to see if a change in appearance will increase value in the students’ perspective.
III. Summer Block Meal Plan Program
   a. MIT Dining released information about the summer dining options for The Howard Dining Hall.
   b. Service will include breakfast and dinner - Monday through Thursday, just breakfast on Friday, and brunch and dinner on Sunday.
   c. The Howard Dining Hall will be closed for dinner on Fridays and all day on Saturdays.
   d. Retail dining venues in W20 will remain open during the summer.
   e. 500-550 students have been confirmed to be on-campus during the summer,
   f. The Summer Dining Plan will be done with blocks to cover the 88 meal periods between June 20 and August 15:
      i. Block 20 ($220), Block 30 ($315), Block 50 ($500), Block 70 ($665) and additional blocks may be purchased if students run out of meals.
   g. Bon Appétit distributed a proposed house dining menu for the summer.
   h. There will potentially be two weeks in the summer when house dining will not open.
   i. Students may bring guests into The Howard Dining Hall for a meal and pay for them using one of their meal swipes.

IV. Block Meal Plan Program
   a. There was discussion regarding a Block Meal Plan Program for 2013-14.
   b. Bon Appétit views the program as more flexible and receives higher participation.
   c. Block Meal Plans would be purchased by semester and meals would not roll over from fall to spring.
   d. According to Bon Appétit, schools have reported that some students have trouble budgeting their blocks and run out of meals by the end of the semester.
   e. The cost does go up, slightly, with the block meal plan.
   f. The HDC wanted to see data comparing price per meal on the block plan compared to weekly plans.
   g. Dining Chairs were encouraged to hold a meeting and talk to their peers in the fall semester to see how students felt about a block plan.
      i. HDC suggested sending out a draft of the proposed plan for students to view and edit.

V. First Meeting in September
   a. The next meeting was proposed to be held the first full week of September.
   b. MIT Dining will send out an email in mid-August with confirmation.