House Dining Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 10, 2013  
McCormick Hall Dining Hall

In attendance:
Anastassia Bobokalonova  
Bette Colombo  
Cosmos Darwin  
Haley Hurowitz  
Jack Carrol  
Jess Bolandrina  
Justin Anderson  
Katherine Silvestre  
Kathy Hess  
Lauren Patterson  
Michael Myers  
Michael Plasmeier  
Naomi Carton  
Steven Hall

Agenda:
I. Reports
   a. MIT Dining provided data showing meal plan usage by location by residence.
   b. Data showed which meals were eaten where and compared the numbers to the data average between September and March.
   c. Data also showed To-Go container usage by class, location and meal.
   d. March To-Go data showed an increase in usage in March during dinner. Student advocates said projects and tests could be the cause.
   e. Bon Appétit said cashiers were trained in how to check out To-Go boxes and MIT Dining is confident in the data they have collected.
   f. Data showed an increase in usage at Maseeh during March and MIT Dining said it was due to the fact that Maseeh was the only dining hall open during the break.
II. Portion Sizes
   a. A DormCon concern was brought up regarding portion sizes at dining halls—specifically asking for larger than one portion at a dining station.
   b. The MIT Dining meal plan contract says “All you care to eat.”
   c. Representatives from Next, Simmons, and Maseeh said they have not seen students denied larger or extra portions in the dining halls.
   d. Bon Appétit said they would speak to the management in each house dining hall to address the issue but believes that the issue is isolated to Baker.
   e. HDC was encouraged to monitor this issue so it may be discussed again in the next meeting.
III. Website Substitutions
   a. Students voiced their concerns regarding a discrepancy between what a dining hall’s online menu displayed and what was actually served.
   b. Bon Appétit said they have begun using a new website updating system as of Monday (4/8) that will enable them to update the menu if any sudden substitutions had to be made.
   c. Bon Appétit also said that they “substitute up” and, if they have to change the menu, they do not downgrade what is being offered.
IV. Simmons Late Night sub-committee
   a. At a previous HDC meeting, members discussed creating a sub-committee to examine the late night option at Simmons.
   b. Cosmos Darwin, Katherine Silvestre and Michael Plasmeier volunteered to talk to students about the option and will report their findings to the rest of the HDC.
   c. Suggestions for the committee to look at were:
      i. Possible remodeling of Simmons site to continue growth of the late night program
      ii. What the demand for late night options were

V. MIT Dining App
   a. Justin Anderson from IS&T made a presentation on the status of the MIT Dining App.
   b. IS&T and MIT Dining interviewed students for feedback and ideas for the app, which connects to both the MIT Dining and Bon Appétit websites for information and updates.
   c. The app features both house dining and retail dining and includes information such as: location on a campus map, hours, accepted forms of payment, dietary limitation menu filters, and links to external web pages.
   d. IS&T is looking for logos from each of the house dining residence halls so they can include artwork that students will recognize and identify with. Logos can be sent to jander@mit.edu
   e. The app connects with the TechCash office so students may view their meal plan balance from the app.
   f. A direct link to leave comments is provided and is a more accessible form of the physical comment cards currently in use.
   g. Meal by meal menus will be available for viewing and will update directly from the Bon Appétit website.
   h. Soft launch of the app is planned for May with full marketing efforts planned for Fall 2013.

VI. Next Meeting
   a. The next HDC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Simmons Hall.