House Dining Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, October 24, 2012  
Next House Dining Hall

In attendance:
Antonio Moreno   Jessica Bolandrina   Michael Myers
Bette Colombo    Katherine Silvestre  Michael Plasmeier
Casey O’Brien    Kelly McDonald      Naomi Carton
Charles Stewart  Lauren Patterson

Agenda:
I. Residential Life & Dining data
   a. Residential Life & Dining presented preliminary data regarding the current status of the house dining plan and its progression since beginning last year.
   b. HDC members viewed an after-change-period enrollment comparison between Fall 2011 and Fall 2012.
   c. Meal plan change data was also presented from Fall 2011 to Fall 2012.
   d. Weekly meals by period for the month of September 2012 were shared.
   e. Data regarding meal plan usage by location by residence was viewed.
   f. To-Go Box usage for Sept. 2012 was presented and compared to usage from 2011 to 2012.
   g. Guest pass usage was discussed.
      i. Dining saw a spike in usage during family weekend.
      ii. Dining explained that guest passes were allocated after the change period so students could not sign up for a dining plan, use the guest passes, and then drop out of the plan.
      iii. HDC members expressed their concern with students using guest passes on family members rather than during the semester.
      iv. Dining clarified that multiple guest passes may be used at once.
I. Review of Bon Appétit’s Student Voice Survey & Bon Appétit Updates
   a. Bon Appétit reviewed survey results presented to HDC members in April 2012. The survey was conducted in February.
   b. Bon Appétit would like to hold another survey this year to compare to last year’s results.
   c. There were 486 respondents to the survey.
   d. Students were asked to rate several aspects of the dining service, from the food served (taste, smell, appearance, etc), the state of the facilities (cleanliness, seating, presentation), and their perceptions of the staff (friendliness, responsiveness, ability to answer questions).
   e. Bon Appétit and HDC members discussed better marketing a future survey to better reach dining residents, whether it is through a mass email or through contact from individual dining chairs.
f. Since the survey, Bon Appétit has targeted the areas that students indicated needed the most work:
   i. Management responsiveness
   ii. Staff friendliness
   iii. Variety and diversity of food
   iv. Taste of food
   v. Temperature at which the food is served

g. Bon Appétit has recently welcomed two new managers to their team; one in McCormick and one in Simmons

III. Block Plan Information
   a. Bon Appétit discussed their proposed block plan with HDC members. Cost structure of the proposed block plan program resulted in much higher anticipated costs to the student.
   b. BA and MIT Dining will continue to work on a potential block plan program.

IV. Next Meeting
   a. MIT Dining will send out a Doodle to determine the best time and date for the next House Dining Committee meeting.
   b. The link to the Doodle is http://doodle.com/9bkwfdxb4c9zucdu