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Student Affairs Committee

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UMM Student Services Committee
Minutes - 11/3/06

Present: Gail Hockert, Dave Swenson, Corey Phelps, Brittany Jablonsky, LeAnn Hedquist, Adam Olson, Claire Lundgren, Mary Zosel, Michael Eble, Sara Haugen

Absent: Joe Alia, Carla Riley, Adam Yust

Guests: Henry Fulda, Sandy Olson-Loy

I. Proposed Meal Plans for 2007-08 - Henry Fulda, Dining Services Subcommittee

The Dining Services Subcommittee/Advisor Board received a charge from MCSA and others in Spring '05 to review the meal plans and to develop plans that would eliminate transferability, the option of eating meals at Turtle Mountain Café when Food Service wasn't serving. Transferability also allowed students to buy others meals with their meal plans. Both practices had a negative impact on the cost of the meal plans; there was no way to predict how many people would be eating or at which location.

The subcommittee is proposing a choice of 4 meal plans for 2007/08 (attached). MCSA reviewed and endorsed this proposal, Spring '06. The purchase cost for each choice hasn't been determined, but Sodexo anticipates that prices will hold or decline with the savings realized from the elimination of transferability; the meals in each plan must be eaten in Food Service so planning for both food and staffing will be easier.

Additional information about meal plan choices:

- meals must all be eaten in Food Service
- dollars may be spent at either Food Service or TMC
- 19 meals/week + 50 dining dollars: 99.5% of purchasers eat all of the meals. The number of purchasers has increased from 50 - 200 in recent years. The subcommittee believes this is a reflection of satisfaction with the increased options and overall quality of the food.
- 14 meals/week + \$100 dining dollars: 94% eat all of the meals.
- 160 meals/semester + 200 dining dollars: fewer meals, but more dollars, retaining some flexibility to eat in TMC
- 80 meals/semester + 400 dining dollars: previously available only to on-campus apartment residents. Now available to juniors, seniors, apartment residents, and off campus students. If this option was also available to freshmen and sophomores, Sodexo couldn't maintain profitability.
- more vegan options have been added at both sites.

Committee questions/comments:

- some schools offer something like the 80 meals + dining dollars to faculty and staff, also. Dining Services Subcommittee and Sodexo could consider offering this as an option.
- More marketing could be done to increase faculty/staff use of Food Service; current options include \$4 soup and salad (daily) and \$4 Fridays (all you can eat). Resume

sending the weekly menu to faculty/staff e-mail lists or add a link on home page for quick access.

Motion made and seconded to endorse the new meal plan proposal. Unanimous vote to endorse.

II. Minutes of 9/29/06 and 10/20/06 (with deletion of confusing sentence) approved unanimously.

III. Upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) for Food Service Vendor Contract - Sandy Olson-Loy

We will need to begin soon to prepare an RFP for a Food Service vendor after our contract with Sodexo is complete in two more years. The University's central administration is proposing to prepare and administer one RFP for the whole system. This would not necessarily mean a single vendor would be chosen for all campuses, but one proposal would be more efficient, involving less costly multiple processes and more negotiating power. The timeline for the RFP is:

- issue the RFP in January-February '07
- submission of RFPs due June-July '07
- visits to campuses from bidders, Fall '07
- new contract in place, Summer '08

The last time UMM issued an RFP we worked with a consultant to identify problems and identify things that we wanted included in the contract.. That work resulted in greater student satisfaction with food service than in years past. The same consultant is available to work with UMM again beginning in December. Sandy Olson-Loy asked the committee to consider possible members for a committee/task force to work with the consultant. Preferably these members could make a two-year commitment. The committee would also be involved in the planning for the Food Service Building renovation which is included in UMM's capital request for '08.

IV. Proposed Spring Celebration

Reviewed the proposal presented at the last meeting by Brian Herrmann (see minutes of 10/20/06). Dave Roberts will clarify with the Spring Celebration committee whether the plan is to begin the celebration in Spring '07 or Spring '08. Discussion will be continued at next SSC meeting.

V. Additional New Business

Sandy Olson-Loy requested that an agenda item for the next meeting: Six year capital plan for Residential Life, including such things as renovation of Blakely and new furniture for Gay Hall

