

FOOD SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
03/16/2022
Reitz Union room 3320

MINUTES

Attending:

Nancy Chrystal-Green
Jennifer Clark
Dwan Courtney
Eddie Daniels
Paul Davenport
Jessie Furman
Dennis Hines
Stephanie Horvath
Tina Horvath
Beth Gankofskie
Matthew Mueller
Jessica-Jean Stonecipher

Matthew Williams
Sazzad Mabud
Anisha Patel
Emma Towler
Rachel Rosenthal
David Kays
Hector Leon – Pepsi
Morgan William - Pepsi
Danette Loyd
Bill McGinn
Jenn Moyer
Hannah Stahmer

I. Call to Order

Jessie Furman called the meeting to order at 12:00pm following lunch provided by Gator Dining Services.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Jessie F. welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Stephanie Horvath with the UAA, who is attending for the first time, to introduce herself.

III. Review/Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 15, 2022, meeting were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

IV. Director of Food & Beverage Services Report

Matt Mueller

• Future of Food Conference

Matt M. attended the Future of Food Conference held in the Reitz Union on March 3rd. The conference included speakers from across the US and internationally. Some highlights included topics such as circular food supply and our ability to reduce the carbon footprint, reduction of processed foods and packaging, and how can we become more green.

Beth G. also attended the conference and posed the question “How do you get people to go from theory to application?”.

Jennifer C. asked about other forms of recyclable utensils such as the use of sugar cane. Would we be able to create a subcommittee to further look into it and include students in the process?

- Upcoming & Past Events

Matt M. provided highlights from the February Farmer's Market held in collaboration with IFAS at Fresh Food Company. It was a well-attended and received event with a steady flow of customers from 10:45am – 1:30pm and showcased a new white strawberry.

419 students participated in the Strawberry Taste Test and the Medallion was the clear winner.

Along with our sponsored partners, GatorWell (spring break safety info), BYPPOCampus, CALS and Dr. Fiona's Wellness Table tabled at the event.

There will be another Farmer's Market held in April, details to follow.

Jessica-Jean S. asked if conversations can be arranged with our vendors regarding sustainability partnerships.

Matt M. recommended those conversations to begin with Matt Williams in the UF Sustainability Office and he would work with our food service provider as agreements are between the food service provider and the national brands located across campus.

V. **Old Business**

- State of the ITN process/decision

Eddie Daniels

The final ITN committee meeting was held Monday, March 14th where they identified the food service provider for UF's next contract period. The committee selected Chartwells and we are excited to begin working with them and see what direction they take our food service program. There is a three-day posting period before the process is complete.

We are thankful to Aramark and their commitment to campus since 1995.

Each of the proposers were evaluated on 15 evaluation criteria. Chartwells excelled in all areas. The transition will begin immediately upon notification after the posting period. In the posting period, both Aramark and Sodexo have the right to file an intent to protest the decision. The announcement is posted on the procurement website.

We ask that everyone respect the three-day posting period and respect Aramark's employees on campus. Aramark's existing contract expires June 30th.

You may see some changes in operations during the transition. One immediate change that impacts the FSAC is Aramark will honor previously issued vouchers, however, they will not issue any new vouchers.

Jessie F. asked about retaining hourly staff.

Eddie shared that typically hourly staff will be retained by the new food service provider. The management team will likely be all new.

Dwan C. inquired about Local Restaurant Row. Matt M. stated he believed Local Restaurant Row should run through the end of the contract (June 30).

Beth G. asked about the number of employees Aramark currently has and expressed her concern about job loss for the workers. Eddie shared Aramark currently has approximately 800 employees. Matt M. mentioned it is the nature of the business, but be respectful to those who may be leaving, as many employees have been here for several years, have homes here and children in schools.

Matt M. shared through this process we looked at how well the proposers transitioned in other large contracts.

Jennifer C. asked about metrics other than plate costs to measure a good food service program.

Eddie D. mentioned satisfaction levels, sustainability benchmarks, meal plans sold, participation rates (meal plan swipes) are some of the other areas measured to rate a university food service program.

Dennis H. commented that the UAA was part of the ITN committee/process and is very much on board with the Chartwells choice.

Eddie D. mentioned we will bring more to the next meeting about Chartwells and what they are planning to bring to campus.

Hector L. asked about changes to restaurants. Eddie D. said there will be some changes and they will take place over time.

David K. asked about the Racquet Club changes. Eddie D. said it is an area that will be renovated and turned into a dining facility. However, details are yet to be determined.

Eddie D. took a moment to recognize Emma Towler for serving on the ITN committee. She was a valuable member of the committee and provided a great student perspective. Thank you, Emma!

- Cashless vending pilot program

Jessie F. mentioned the cashless vending pilot program is on hold. Matt M. stated the campus card system is changing and we need to integrate the new systems with Pepsi and Canteen.

VI. New Business

- Gator Day in Tallahassee

Sazzad M. apologized for missing the last meeting as he was attending Gator Day at the state capitol.

Gator Day is an event where current and former Gators come together to advocate for the advancement of the University of Florida's academic mission. This is done by educating elected and appointed officials, state and community leaders, and all Floridians of the economic, cultural, and societal benefits of the University of Florida to the state, nation, and world.

We were able to hear from President Fuchs, the board of trustees, various panelists, notable alumni, and Coach Napier. We also had the opportunity to attend a live session of the FL House of Representatives.

Students were able to advocate for Florida Bright Futures, mental health initiatives, and pedestrian safety around campus. David K. emphasized their conversations with state legislators about mental health initiatives. The approximate ratio of students to mental health providers at UF is 1700 to 1.

Gator Day was a great opportunity to represent UF and the student body. It was a great experience and would recommend anyone interested in it to participate next year.

- Vending Contract ITN
Matt M. shared the vending contract with Canteen has been extended by two years.

VII. Adjournment

After no additional questions, comments or concerns, Jessie adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

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Next meeting April 5, 2022, 11:30am – 1:00pm, JWRU 2355