

DINING SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2009

12:00 noon

JRC Room 224A (The Day Room)

Present: Holden Bale, Nancy Combs, Travis Greene, Claire Moisan, Ben Offenberg, Les Ollinger, Eric Vos, and Dick Williams; also Mary Kirk, Vicki Wade, and Terry Waltersdorf.

Absent: None.

Introduction of 2009-2010 Committee Members. Meeting dates for the year have been sent out as an Outlook meeting. Ben will be working on student appointments to the Dining Committee and these positions should be filled within the next few weeks.

Dining Services Updates

- A faculty lunch option (pilot version) will be made available through The Spencer Grill within the next few days. Details will be released to the faculty through the Dean's Office.
- Culinary staff have reworked the menus and added over 95 new items for the fall semester including make-your-own quesadillas. We will continue to highlight new items using the "blue light" special.
- Our consulting dietitian, Britt McConnell, will be available again this year on Wednesdays. Interested students should make an appointment with her by e-mailing dietitian@grinnell.edu. Since Britt is only on campus Wednesdays, her time is limited.
- Dining is planning a "Nutrition 101" class for November in which Britt will explain how to nutritionally navigate in The Marketplace. This will be open to everyone, but is mainly aimed at students.
- We currently have 18 students on medically required diets and another 12-15 students with nut allergies.
- A "local foods night" is coming to The Marketplace on September 29. We will include as many different types of local foods as possible.
- Smoothie Bar has been added to the menu every other Thursday at breakfast. The alternating Thursday is Oatmeal Bar and includes a number of toppings and seasonings for steel cut oatmeal.
- We have changed our milk provider to Anderson Erickson Dairy of Des Moines. AE gives us a larger array of flavors (yogurt). In addition, they employ 400 people who contribute to the local economy and purchase all of their fluid milk from farms within the State of Iowa.
- The Ramadan program has been greatly enhanced and will be reevaluated when Ramadan concludes on September 20.
- 97% of the Dining career staff has been ServSafe certified as safe food handlers through the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF). Dining is committed to serving and handling all food in a safe manner and this certification shows our people are knowledgeable about safe food handling practices. Beginning soon we will also be offering a shortened version of the training to our student employees.
- This year Dining Services changed the way in which newly-hired student employees were trained and information was distributed. This has gone well and many new employees have been assimilated into the operation.

Comments from Campus

- Claire asked about wheat-free/gluten-free labeling in The Marketplace. At present, that is not an option. If someone needing specific knowledge of a product should ask a supervisor.
- Holden asked why the cereals had been moved. This was to give more space for the breads, toasters, and assorted toppings. Cereal consumption has increased since the move.
- Ben congratulated Dining Services for taking the initiative in placement of sanitizer dispensers throughout the operation. A request to move the dispenser to behind the cashier was noted, however having it closer to the IN door has resulted in increased use.
- Ben asked about
 - Expanding hours (earlier) for Sunday brunch. Due to budget constraints this is not possible.
 - Separating the water spigots on drink machines. This will be looked into.
 - Changes in requirements for student involvement on the Dining Committee. This will be brought to the table at our next meeting for discussion and possible action.
 - Students have expressed thanks for Cuban Burgers and many "bars". They have also asked if the baked-to-order chocolate chip cookies would return this year (YES!).

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 24 at noon in JRC Room 224A (The Day Room). Minutes from meetings will be posted on web site. Reminders are sent out the Monday before each Thursday meeting. Please reply to those reminders.