

Daly, Marsha A

From: Kowalka, Keith T
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2008 7:07 PM
To: Sam Dike; Lee, Elwyn C
Cc: Wynne Chin; Coltharp, Sandy ; Milton, B R; Daly, Marsha A; U-COORD-COMMISSION@LISTSERV.UH.EDU
Subject: University Coordinating Commission: Notification of a Proposal UCC 0051 08S, UCC 0052 08S, UCC 0044 08S and UCC 050 08S
Attachments: Staff Council Responses to UCC Items - May 2008 - Final.doc; UCC_0051_08S.PDF; UCC_0052_08S.PDF; UCC_0044_08S.PDF; UCC_0050_08S.PDF

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Mr. Sam Dike, Student Government Association President
Dr. Elwyn C. Lee, Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Student Affairs

In relation to the four (4) proposals noted in the subject line above at the University Coordinating Commission level, I have attached the comments from the Staff Council to each of these items.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,
Keith

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Quote of the Month:

*There's only us, there's only this; Forget regret or life is yours to miss;
No other road, no other way, no day but today.....from "Rent" by Jonathan Larsen*

The Student Government Association has submitted a proposal titled SGA: Bill to Expand the Powers of the Food Service Advisory Committee.

As one of the major stakeholder bodies at UH, Staff Council appreciates the opportunity to have input into issues which affect staff, as well as the UH community as a whole. There is also recognition that advisory committees fulfill a very important role – to advise the University leadership on such issues – either directly or through University Standing Committee, which includes the Food Service Advisory Committee (FSAC).

While it is the general feeling of Staff Council that the FSAC should not have final approval/vote on issues related to hours of operation, dining options or facilities or pricing (retail or meal plan values), Staff Council does strongly suggest that the FSAC as a whole is provided items related to hours of operation, dining options or facilities and pricing changes well in advance of a proposed implementation date so as to have an opportunity to provide feedback. In addition, Staff Council feels strongly that any other program enhancement and/or change to the overall food service program that may not be identified within this SGA resolution also be provided to the FSAC well in advance of proposed implementation date so as to have an opportunity to provide feedback.

The Student Government Association has submitted a proposal titled SGA: University Bill to Establish a Satisfaction Guarantee Standard and abolish Mandatory Meal Plans for students living in the residence halls.

Staff Council fully supports this concept from a philosophical perspective. If not feasible for all students - financially with the ARAMARK contract or operationally without having kitchens in Moody Towers and the Quadrangle - Staff Council would support a trial measure that would allow all non-first-semester freshmen students to be released from the mandatory meal plans.

In addition we strongly believe that students (and staff and faculty) who purchase meal plans should be allowed to utilize Cougar Cash at other retail locations (Sonic, McAlister's, Tealicious, Shasta's Cones & more, etc.). The two-tiered system of food services (ARAMARK and mixed-use space lease operations) should be resolved.

Both of the above items, along with the Satisfaction Guarantee Standard within the SGA bill, should provide increased competition – so that ARAMARK and lease operations alike will improve their quality, value and service.

* UCC 0044 08S

The VP for Student Affairs has submitted a proposal titled SGA Actions: Bill to Recommend the Amendment of the University of Houston Nondiscrimination Statement.

Staff Council supports this bill and its recommendations.

The Student Government Association has submitted a proposal titled SGA: Resolution in favor of considering alternative coffee vendor options for the M.D. Anderson Library.

Staff Council supports this resolution. The University of Houston is home to two (2) Starbucks franchise providers at this time. In addition, we have one (1) Java City franchise coffee program. Staff Council suggests that the University conduct an online survey to identify the preferences of the UH community. In addition to limiting the options to national brands, we would also welcome the opportunity to have a local/Houston-based coffee program be included in the survey.