

**FOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2014**  
**GUC ROOM 200**

**Call to Order**

The Shared Governance Food Services Committee met on September 24, 2014, in Room 200 of the Guillot University Center. Since the 2013-2014 vice chair is no longer with the University to assume the duties as chair for 2014-2015, the committee will first elect a chair and vice chair. Therefore, Ms. Darlene Townsend, Chair, Shared Governance Executive Committee, presided over the meeting to supervise the election of the chair and called to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. The following voting members were present to comprise a quorum: Dr. Jennifer Dawson, Mr. Jermaine Ferguson, Dr. Ulrich Groetsch, Ms. Leah Harper, Mr. Bret Jennings, Ms. Karen Kennedy, Mr. Johnson Ogun, Mr. David Shields. Non-voting members present were Mr. Austin Miller (SGA) and Ms. Gwen Burney (Sodexo).

**Chair and Vice Chair Elections**

SGEC Chair Townsend called for nominations or volunteers for chair. Mr. Jennings motioned and Mr. Shields seconded to nominate Mr. Jermaine Ferguson, who accepted the nomination. By unanimous vote, he was elected as chair of SG Food Services Committee.

Ms. Townsend called for nominations or volunteers for vice chair. After motion by Mr. Jennings and second by Ms. Kennedy, Dr. Ulrich Groetsch accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously as vice chair of the SG Food Services Committee.

Ms. Townsend excused herself and turned the meeting over to Chair Ferguson.

**Discussion**

The minutes from April 9th meeting was distributed to committee members for additions and/or corrections. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Kennedy with second by Mr. Ogun, and the minutes were approved unanimously. Chair Ferguson then opened the floor for discussion of any old business based upon information given in the April minutes.

- Installing card readers on all Coke machines (*Item 4.A.2*)—Ms. Burney indicated that this is not a Sodexo issue but falls under vending contracts; she believes that Cindy Conlon is working with the Coca-Cola representative. Others commented that in the past, the cost of card reader installation was an issue with Coca-Cola. Various machines have different prices and programming may be another problem.
- Convenience Store (C Store) (*Item 4.A.3*)—Ms. Burney updated the status. The C Store is now carrying Simply-To-Go, which includes the grab-and-go sandwiches and salads. Groceries have been added, such as peanut butter in jar, loaves of bread, fresh whole fruit, laundry detergents, macaroni and cheese, and a couple of other things that are microwavable frozen foods. She wants to see how items are tracking so she will look at product movement with Chef Paul Teran and report back to the Committee.
- Hours (*Items 4.A.4 - 5*)—Ms. Burney stated that providing extended hours in Towers would have to be negotiated between Sodexo and the University because it is contractual for meal plans. Sodexo is still trying to develop different ways of having what is called an equivalency meal

across campus. The C Store hours have not been adjusted; they are still 6 p.m. until midnight, Sunday through Thursday, which seems to be working well since no complaints are known.

### New Business

Chair Ferguson asked for discussion of any new business.

**New Residence Halls**--Mr. Shields informed the committee that construction has begun on two new residence halls; the first will open August 2015 and the second, no later than January 2016. We will have more freshmen living on campus and thus more demand on our current dining facilities. Talks have begun on different ways of dining on campus, and also discussion has begun about a new dining hall. He believes that the Food Services Committee, as well as the Infrastructure Committee, will have important roles in deciding how and what to put in the dining facilities. As formal discussions begin soon, he will provide more information and seek input from this committee.

**Meal Equivalency**--Ms. Kennedy posed a question about returning the GUC Food Court to its former mode of operation to accommodate the increased dining demand. Presently, seating is a problem in Towers during peak meal times and the service line at “Innovations” is particularly long. The GUC is not open during dinner hours. Prior to 2005 a one-time pass on the hot bar meal counted as one meal plan equivalent. Ms. Burney stated that there have been no direct discussions [in Sodexo] about a buffet setup, but they have discussed possibly changing some of the brand concepts to accommodate the meal equivalence. Mr. Shields and Ms. Kennedy agreed that a buffet is not practical and brand equivalence is the focus. Sodexo is discussing equivalency and how to proactively accommodate all the new freshmen; suggestions are welcome.

**Meal Plan System**--Mr. Shields added that we are also looking at the overall meal plan system. There are numerous plan options at UNA. Many campuses combine meals into a standardized room-and-board-plan. The University is looking at this process. A natural extension of this system would be incorporating the meal plan equivalence; daily options could exist for the equivalence, perhaps rotating the vendor brand that is offering the meal equivalence. This would help us accommodate and spread out the options where our students will go to eat. More feedback to this committee will follow as progress is made in development. To identify what Sodexo can do, Ms. Burney commented that they are heavily tracking and collecting data to see what can be done with their available spaces in Towers and GUC. “Innovations” is a made-to-order venue and does create slower traffic. Special events like soul food lunch attract larger crowds; seating can be limited by lack of tables and chairs due to poor maintenance. We need to start with small details, such as adding small tables or pods to add seating now.

**Online Ordering**--Is ordering online feasible so that there is no waiting? This is not practical in our current all-you-can-eat facility. As the University looks at increase to approximately 2,400 students on campus needing dining and the potential to phase in a meal plan requirement for any student living in a residence hall, we can consider options like online ordering. This Committee could help with those suggestions but we must consider the cost and what will actually generate revenue.

Another question posed was the possibility of online ordering in specific brand options such pizza or subs that are paid with the meal plan option. A Sub Connection app already exists, but how the NuVision point-of-sale (POS) network configures the hardware and software is debatable. Ms. Burney investigated pre-ordering for Chick-Fil-A, since the Sequoia retail system in The Commons can perform to this function. However, Chick-Fil-A would not permit pre-ordering because of restrictions on heating times; if no pickup within a specified time period, they must discard the item and will lose profit.

Mr. Shields cautioned that cost of new technology is a major factor to consider as the University pursues options. The goal of this Committee is to help bring to campus a state-of-the-art residence hall dining facility.

**Meeting Date and Time**

A motion was approved to meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Dates for fall semester 2014 are October 14, November 11, and December 9. Dates for spring 2015 are January 13, February 9, March 10, and April 14.

Mr. Austin Miller inquired about student participation on the Committee and schedule conflicts. Members of the Committee suggested that from the four students assigned to the Committee, they may discuss swapping out or proxy representation with Ms. KeKoria Greer, SGA President, if their individual schedules do not permit attending the meetings. Student representation on the Food Services Committee was agreed as essential and strongly encouraged by committee members.

**Announcements**

The next meeting will be held October 14, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in GUC Room 200.

**Adjournment**

A motion was passed for adjournment and the meeting closed at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by:  
*Veronica Allen*  
Administrative Support