



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA

Food Services Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 – 12pm
Location: Zoom Meeting
Attendees: UTM Andrea D., Vicky J., Lee B., Sabrina C., Monika H., Josée J.,
Students Thanh P., Melanie C., Aly S.
UTMSU Maëlis B.

1. NEW BUSINESS

A. Current Year Forecast

- Andrea D. presented to the Committee the current year's forecast
 - Andrea D. provided a brief overview of the requirements of ancillary budgets for those new to the Committee
 - With public health restrictions still in place for 2021-22, the on-campus population was lower than expected, resulting in a lack of conference and event business and lower-than-expected food revenue
 - The commission from Aramark is a flat fee for 2021-22 to account for uncertainty in revenue and reminded the Committee that any increase food and catering revenue above forecast for this year would not result in extra contribution to the ancillary
 - As with last year, the ancillary was able to reduce a lot of expenditures through most staff continuing to work remotely, by delaying the hiring for vacant positions, and from deferred construction projects
 - The resultant impact of lower than expected revenues will result in a higher than expected shortfall for this year, but the shortfall will be covered by Fund Reserves
 - Andrea D. reminded the Committee that the ancillary is not (or will not be) subsidized by the University's operating budget
 - Andrea D. also confirmed that the ancillary has not changed its commitment to investing in its current and future sustainability initiatives, and that the ancillary is also committing to directly investing in additional resources to support I&ITS in data and network security, particularly around integrations with its commerce management system.

B. Next Year Budget

- Andrea D. reviewed the 2022-23 Hospitality Services Budget
 - Andrea D. noted that the proposed budget has not been reviewed by the Resident Student Dining Committee as of yet.
 - The ancillary's assumption for 2022-23 is a return to 75-90% of pre-pandemic revenue levels, resulting in a return of summer conference business and an expansion of food service options available on campus
 - Aramark will be paying the ancillary a commission rate that was higher than pre-pandemic levels
 - The ancillary will see higher expenses due to more staff on campus and the hiring of vacant positions as well as higher operating costs from more food outlets being open
 - The ancillary is projecting a relative smaller operating shortfall given that revenue will not reach pre-pandemic levels
 - Andrea D. reassured the Committee that the projected shortfall for 2022-23 will also be covered by Fund Reserves and that, for outlying years, the ancillary is expected to be at or above break-even
 - Andrea D. reviewed the proposed meal plan rates for 2022-23 with the Committee
 - Although current inflation is high, forecasts for next year are predicting that food inflation will normalize, so, accounting for projected increases to labour and other costs, food prices are forecasted to increase by just under 3%
 - Proposed Basic amounts for each meal plan are proposed to increase by an average of 3%, with smaller increases proposed for the Minimum and Full Plans (required for upper-year and first-year residence students, respectively) and larger increases proposed for the Light and Plus Plans (optional for upper-year and first-year residence students, respectively)
 - Due to the changes in the status of individual beverages changing from tax-exempt to taxable when purchased using a meal plan, demand for these products is high and, as a result, proposed Flex amounts will increase from \$100/\$250 to \$250/\$500.
 - Andrea D. reviewed the 2019/20 CCUFSA pricing survey results as CCUFSA did not do a 2020/21 pricing survey to remind the Committee that UTM food prices were consistently lower than average
 - Andrea D. showed the Committee first-year minimum meal plan rate comparisons for 2021-22 with other Ontario declining balance schools, and UTM's meal plan was the lowest.
 - Andrea D. reminded the Committee that the proposed meal plan rates for 2022-23 have not been reviewed with the Resident Student Advisory Committee, although the Resident Student Advisory Committee representative at the Committee meeting supported the proposed rates
- The Committee had no objections to the Hospitality Services forecast and budget

C. Other Updates/Questions

- The Residence Students asked for clarification about what is Basic and what is Flex because some students are confused when they go to purchase a drink at Starbucks with their meal plan only to find that it is long longer Basic-eligible
 - Andrea D. clarified that new tax eligibility for products this year better aligns with the CRA guidelines
 - Food and beverage typically consumed for breakfast, lunch, and dinner are basic-eligible, which means that individual prepared beverages are no longer tax-exempt
 - Josée J. asked if there would be improved communication around the new tax-eligibility of products purchased using a meal plan
 - Andrea D. confirmed that signage and enhanced messaging on all platforms specifically would be implemented by the time Tim Hortons opened (November 1st)
- The Residence Students asked about the possibility of getting vending machines in the MaGrath Valley laundry room
 - Andrea D. reminded the Committee that a snack and beverage vending machine used to be located in that laundry room but were removed because sales were extremely low, but agreed to revisit the issue in the next Resident Student Dining Committee meeting
 - Aly S. made the request due to the fact that students in townhouses were not able to access vending machines in Roy Ivor or OPH after 11pm
 - Vicky J. stated that she will look into the situation because Colman Commons did not close until midnight on some nights, so all residence students should be able to access OPH with their TCards

UPDATE: The Director of Residence confirmed that all residence students are able to access OPH using their TCard at any time and, if they are not able to get access, they should contact the OPH residence desk

NEXT MEETING: TBA