

Committee on Vendors Services: An Academic Senate Standing Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of January 28th, 2015, M-209, at 12:10pm

In Attendance: Burgers, Johannes, Honey, Larisa; Li, Li Xu; Pecinka, Kathleen; Sideris, Paul; Tawde, Mangala; Faulkner, William; Wasserman, David

Absent: Murley, Jean (COC Liason), Student Representatives: Eastwood, Gregory; Mohabir, Mahendra

1. Since all of the committee members were new to the committee and most were absent at the last committee meeting in spring 2014 on May 14th, at 11:45am in M209, M. Tawde briefed the committee members about last meeting. At that meeting M. Tawde was elected as the committee chair but election of secretary for the meeting was pending.

2. New Secretary

J. Burgers was voted secretary by unanimous decisions

2. Committee Charges

The charges of the vending committee were distributed and reviewed.

3. Chair's Report

- Emily Tai (Vice-Chair, Steering committee of Academic Senate) has invited chairs of the committee to the committee on committee meeting on (Feb. 25th). M. Tawde will attend the meeting and report back to the committee.

4. Guest Speaker William Faulkner

Since many of the members of the committee are new, William Faulkner was kind enough to join the meeting and explain the role of the committee within the college framework. The committee functions as an intermediary between the college and the Auxiliary Board.

We discussed the level of input the Vending Committee had in terms of vending items. The Auxiliary Board is open to suggestions, but ultimately the decision is in the hands of the Auxiliary Board based on a cost benefit analysis.

5. New Business

A. Fair Trade Food Vendors

Prof. Honey spoke about a project she does in her class to raise awareness about ethical production processes and globalization. In this regard, they primarily focus on chocolate. On Earth Day they put out a table to talk about chocolate to other students. What they found is that there were few options with regard to Fair Trade on campus. They, the students, are interested in providing some type of an option for Fair Trade food are on campus.

Prof. Faulkner pointed out that the idea is open to discussion, but, generally, that students are very sensitive to price fluctuations. It would have to be evaluated in June during the Auxiliary Board meeting.

B. Service Learning project by HPED students for healthy snacks/beverages in campus vending machines

In the same vein as the Fair Trade options, there is currently a Service Learning project by HPED students which investigates available healthy options on campus. Students would like to get the resources to investigate current options and look into the mechanisms into advocating for healthier options.

Since the drinks on campus are provided by Pepsi Co. this is somewhat constrained. The route through food vending seems more reasonable. Once again, the problem here is price. Any extra cost associated with the food will reflect in purchases and profitability, which is ultimately the priority for Metropolitan Foods.

Chair moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Paul Sideris.

Respectfully submitted,
Johannes Burgers