



Ohio Union Council November 14th, 2013

Attendance:

Undergraduate Student Government

Rachel Cohen (Ohio Union Council Vice-Chair)

Moriah Locklear

Evan Sieradzki (Ohio Union Council Chair)

Cody Vermillion

Council of Graduate Students

Adithya Jayakumar

Russell Stech

Inter-Professional Council

Brittani Jones

Ohio Union Student Employees

Margaret Nevrekar for Sarah Mangia

Adnane Rhazzal (Events Subcommittee Chair)

Ohio Union Activities Board

MacGregor Obergfell (ex-officio)

Hali Buck (ex-officio)

Council on Student Affairs

Joe Mancinotti (Policy Subcommittee Chair)

Faculty

Scott Jones

USAC

Richard Wofford

Alumni

Chuck Claibourne

Jody Jordan

At-Large

Ann Kneidinger-Flaherty

Brad Myers

Ohio Union Events/Student Activities

Matt Couch (ex-officio)

Eve Esch (ex-officio)

Dan Huffman (ex-officio)

Nick Stefanik (ex-officio - Ohio Union Council Secretary)

- I. Welcome
- II. Dining Presentation - Zia Ahmed, Director of Dining Services
 - a. Introduction to Dining Services
 - b. Autumn 2013 Updates:
 - i. Rolled out limited time offers (250) at various locations
 - ii. Challenge of repetition – students go to same place every time
 - iii. Hope is to increase variety for students attending the same dining locations
 - iv. Great feedback from students on LTOs
 - v. Monotony-breaker dinners at dining locations (Steak night at Kennedy)
 - vi. Great feedback on LTOs and special dinners – Groups like RHAC have requested more special nights
 - vii. Most locations are highlighting seasonal food
 - viii. Dining is very involved with the NRDT conversations
 - c. Fun facts
 - i. Fresh fruit/vegetable purchases up 30% in last 3 years
 - ii. Two salads sold for every burger sold at Union Market
 - d. Q: How does Dining transport hot items from place to place?
 - i. This is rare, except for University Catering
 - 1. More working with cold – two specialized trucks.
 - 2. Made in cold environment, take temperature
 - 3. Loaded into truck, take temperature
 - 4. Arrive at location, take temperature
 - e. Q: With such a diverse student body are you looking to extend veg/specialized options?
 - i. Absolutely. Kennedy was trial project
 - ii. Expanding without publicizing – great food without focus on dietary exceptions
 - iii. Will be on a much larger scale with NRDT
 - iv. Focus on this in all operations for concerns about dietary needs – focus on training for staff (3,000 students) so staff is knowledgeable

- f. Feedback – great vegetarian options. Been vegetarian for 2 years on campus, the variety and quality is very much appreciated.
 - i. Much improvement over past few years, including the “solution station” for exceptions
 - ii. Changing the mindset – very committed to serving students with dietary needs
 - 1. Reach out to students with needs with dietician – come talk to us and find great options
 - 2. Focus groups – peanut allergy, gluten free, vegetarian/vegan, international students
 - 3. More externally focused – listen to what students like
- g. Q: What percentage of product is from Ohio?
 - i. 30% - work with Ohio State Animal Sciences first, then expand out. Priority on Ohio
- h. Q: When the meal plan, switched to blocks there was an adjustment. May appreciate the smaller option, but many wish for a smaller block option. Have you considered this?
 - i. Definitely being studied. Benchmarked from last year, students are doing very well. No more reminder emails. Negligible missed meal factor paced at this point. Last semester, 2-3%. This semester, pace for <2%. Still, always considering meal plan options.
- i. Q: Which Dining location is busiest?
 - i. Traditional – Kennedy and North are neck and neck, probably Kennedy is marginally busier
 - ii. Retail/Marketplace – Union Market
 - iii. Coffee Shop – Berry Café at Thompson Library
- j. Q: Vet school has a Subway now. What impact does Subway have on the coffee shop at Vet Med?
 - i. No major impact – different audience. In fact, Dining is exploring another coffee option.

- k. Q: Now that construction of South Campus dorms has finished, there are more students on South Campus. Have you noticed increased traffic at Union Market? If so, doing anything to mitigate the increased crowd?
 - i. Yes, self-serve salad bar was a factor. This has doubled the volume of salads going out. Throughput is much faster.
 - ii. The biggest bottleneck is at cash registers. Production in Market is increasing, so seriously looking at cash register process. Changing shifts now, but looking at more options including structural changes.
- l. Catering operations –
 - i. Merged catering operations. All operating out of the Ohio Union building.
 - 1. As with all transitions, some bumps. Overall a very good job in transition.
 - 2. Busy month last month in the building, also a busy month for off-premise University catering
 - 3. Very committed to work with students to see how to improve Alternate Catering Process
 - 4. MSA Fastathon event – partnering with restaurant
 - a. This will be a great test
 - b. Goal of this is to take process out of students' hands.
 - c. OU will manage process – better quality execution, ensure safety, students can focus on having a great event
 - ii. Can you see merger between OU/Catering negatively affect Union?
 - 1. No – better for Student Life. Efficiencies. Finding a way to get more use out of the facility
 - 2. Feedback from OUAB – no quality change in service – certainly no lapse both off-premise and in facility
 - iii. All credit goes to Larry Moore, other catering team members who helped facilitate the transition
 - iv. Focus is always on serving students.

III. Director Updates

- a. MacGregor Obergfell, OUAB President
 - i. 15 events in November
 - ii. Past highlights – Sarah Silverman
 - 1. Distributed over 2000 for Mershon
 - 2. Niev Schulman in Grand Ballroom – sold out Ballroom
 - 3. Collab w Hindi Club – Bollywood Film Festival
 - iii. Future – Ice skating on West Plaza
 - 1. 40x40 ice skating rink
 - 2. Neil deGrasse Tyson – sold out very quickly
 - 3. Beat Michigan Craft Night
 - 4. 8 events up through Finals week, including Reading Day
- b. Eve Esch, Director
 - i. Maternity leave starting mid-December. Will be out first few months of 2014
 - ii. October 2013 busiest month since Union opened
 - 1. 3013 events in 31 days. Up 8% from previous busiest month
 - iii. Fiscal YTD events: 7600 - 6% up from last year
 - 1. Consistent with growth from years past
 - iv. 65% student orgs, 30% University User, 5% non-University User
 - v. Recent events:
 - 1. GE Middle Market Event (Partnered with Fisher)
 - a. 1000+ attendees, multiple meals per day
 - b. GE hires about 50 students to help with this event
 - vi. Upcoming events:
 - 1. Thanksgiving – 2000 meals for students unable to travel
 - 2. 7 different Holiday parties
 - 3. Wood floor refinish in Woody's, Grand Ballroom
 - 4. Reseal restroom floors
 - 5. Elevator work
 - 6. Ablution rooms – addition of one faucet in each room
 - 7. Reading Day – collaboration with Wellness, Res Life, Rec Sports
 - 8. Lots of flash mobs – 4 in November

vii. Longer term projects:

1. Re-evaluate our evaluation process
 - a. Clients who book events, as well as guests in building
 - b. process started recently, will have data in future
2. Strategic planning across student life – process just beginning
3. Budget recommendations for next Fiscal Year
 - a. Requested fairly early compared to past years
 - b. Possible adjustment of room rates
 - i. No major adjustments since we opened
 - ii. Potential of flat rate increase
 - iii. Also looking at time-based rental costs

c. Matt Couch, Director

i. Buck-i-Serv Winter trips 23 within US. 1 trip to Costa Rica.

1. About 70 trips with 1000 participants this semester

ii. Beat Michigan Week

1. Blood Battle
2. Pay it Forward – Battle against Hunger
3. Lululemon – free 60 minute yoga class in Union
4. Pep Rally
 - a. Moved a day later, on Tuesday before Michigan game
 - b. Taking place on newly opened South Oval
 - c. Featuring Eddie George, Urban Meyer
 - d. Building a festival event around this
 - e. Food trucks galore – free meal for first 4000 wrist bands
 - f. Zipline, laser tag, pumpkin smashing contest, etc.

iii. Winter Commencement Week events

1. More of a focus than in years past

iv. dtix would offer Big Ten Championship game tickets

1. Students would get free bus transportation to game

v.Q: Why switch date to Tuesday for Pep Rally?

1. Opening of South Oval
2. Create a large event for all students

vi.Q: Time on Pep Rally?

1. 6:30pm – program from 7:00-8:00pm
2. Eddie George will DJ

d. Dan Huffman, Business Manager

i. YTD net income of \$383,000 is significantly higher than last year.

1. This is due to restructuring:

- a. Catering Transition
- b. Rec Sports admin
- c. Student Life Advancement took a large portion of OU Staff
- d. Some salaries switching reporting lines
- e. Supplies and Service budget – \$75,000 YTD less

IV. Subcommittee Reports

a. Events: Adnane Rhazzal, Subcommittee Chairman

i. Meeting next Thursday at 5:30

1. Hearing from Taste of OSU, Buckeye Showcase, BuckeyeThon

b. Policy: Joe Mancinotti, Subcommittee Chairman

i. Co-sponsorship form

1. Changes in wording – Previous and proposed attached

- a. Logo wording
- b. Alcohol Request Form

2. Ongoing Co-sponsorship Form

- a. reduction in paperwork
- b. Multiple events in same term
- c. Only effective per Academic Year

3. Motion passes as attached

ii. Tobacco usage on campus – no longer allowed as of 1/1/14

1. Policy added to reflect this – change designated smoking areas
2. Vote to update existing policy to reflect current University policies

V. Future Meetings & Topics

a. Dates

- i. January 9th, 5:30pm - Barbie Tootle Room
- ii. February 6th, 5:30pm - Barbie Tootle Room

- iii. March 6th, 5:30pm - Barbie Tootle Room
- iv. April 3rd, 5:30pm - Barbie Tootle Room

b. Topics

- i. New topics to be discussed during meetings

VI. Announcements