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From: hsac-request@union.lists.rpi.edu on behalf of Banerjee, Rhea <banerr3@rpi.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 1:09 PM
To: Hsac
Subject: [hsac] Exciting HSAC Updates!!

Hi everyone!

Congrats on making it through finals! As some of you may know, I had a meeting with Michael Ramella and Maureen Brown last Wednesday and have quite a few exciting updates for everyone.

This past year, we made a lot of progress with Fresh Pantry but we are still dealing with the issue of liability for selling raw protein. As an alternative, Michael and Maureen suggested we sell cooked proteins while keeping the rest of the program as planned. Hopefully we can get a pilot program running within the first few months of the fall semester.

I know a lot of people, including myself, have been wondering about the removal of the create-your-own meal plan for sophomores. For some background, this meal plan was first introduced in 2016 as a compensation for the increasing incoming freshman class size. The dining halls were unable to compensate for the large numbers of students coming in during peak dining hours but now with Commons and Sage renovations, there will be 240 additional seats in Sage and 260 additional seats in Commons. Giving sophomores the create-your-own meal plan moved pressure from the dining halls onto retail dining, causing new issues in the Rathskeller. While many people, especially sophomores, might not like this, the create-your-own meal plan will not be coming back now or in the foreseen future. RPI admin is certain that once the newly renovated Commons is open, everyone will be able to enjoy using their meal swipes!

I will be working with Sodexo to plan a dinner or other event in the new Commons, free for all sophomores, so the class of 2022 (the best class) can hopefully appreciate the changes taking place.

Additionally, Freight Farm will be coming to Commons! This will basically be a tractor without wheels in which we will be growing primarily lettuce and herbs to be used in dining halls. Once this is running, HSAC will be one of the first groups to tour this addition.

To address a few other things I've heard, Halal Shack and other places in the Rathskeller will continue to accept meal swipes after 9pm and Sage-to-Go will be limiting students to selecting one item from each section (entree, drink, 2 snacks).

Moving forward, I'd like to work on increasing sustainability in dining halls and I'd love to hear everyone's ideas! Also if anyone has any questions about anything I discussed with Michael and Maureen please don't hesitate to reach out! Please also fill out this whenisgood for the fall semester so we can get started on an excited semester!
<http://whenisgood.net/HSAC2019wooo>

Have an amazing summer everyone!!

Best,

Rhea Banerjee
Hospitality Services Advisory Committee Chair