

Dining Program Recommendation by the Consultant

To: ~~uaf~~:

June 19, 1999

Subject: MPC Recommendation Related to the Dining Program Recommendation by the Consultant

The RICCA Planning Studio has completed a review of the UAF dining facilities and on June 14, 1999 submitted its review and recommendations. The chancellor has asked the MPC to consider this report and, in a sentence, "If the University wishes to proceed with implementation of a consolidated approach, it is recommended that an architectural study of the Wood Center should be undertaken to fuaua unden-5(udy)11.cv-[(u-5(a4)-

The single meeting in which only six members of the MPC were able to attend means that the MPC was not able to fully discuss the issue in a manner consistent with its normal routine. Individual comments are placed here.

John Craven

The consolidated approach is an issue in itself. This is a huge undertaking for which UAF needs to be rock-solid certain that the outcome will be close to what is being expected. It is the central vs. distributed issue, and it is necessary to make certain that financial blinders have not limited the discussion from the outset to the centralized option and never let the majority stockholder in this adventure, the students, even consider a more distributed option. For example, would students in the upper campus dorms prefer to remain in their dorm for dinner in a distributed format as opposed to having to walk to the Wood Center, and if so would they be willing to pay a premium for the increased study time in the evening? This is generally dismissed because there was once a food service in the upper dorms. However, it is the institutional service of those earlier days that the new report abandons for a contemporary approach. What if that the new food format was tried in a more distributed system? Additionally or alternately, would students support a small service in the dorms in the later evening vs. vending machines? Were they ever asked? These issues are raised here in support of the central theme of the document, "...to support the educational mission of the University" and to me reduced travel time is one way to increase time for study, part of the educational mission. It is one thing to appreciate an ideal that at first blush looks attractive, the consolidated approach, and given the present state of affairs in food service it will undoubtedly yield success. Having said that, it is quite another thing to join a bandwagon without asking hard questions. Hence additional investigations of student concerns and interest should be carried out in parallel with the "scoping" activity recommended by the MPC.

Dan Flodin

The changes in Food Service are very important to the future satisfaction of our students. This consultant has proven very successful at other schools (including UAA). Students want modern flexibility and quick service. Six focus groueix f