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48th General Assembly
Spring 2016, Session 16
January 13, 2016

I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Attendance
- c. Swearing in of Alternates
- d. Approval of Minutes

II. Open Forum for Public

- a. No one from the public came to speak.

III. Executive Report

- a. *Abby Grossman*: There will be an action item in the coming days. On Thursday, January 21st from 6-8pm, there will be a Teaching and Learning Institute in conjunction with the Provost's Office. It will be on an invitation-only basis, so invitations will be sent out first to subject area senators, the Academic Affairs Committee, and then others. If anyone would really like to attend, please contact me.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Allocations – *Jenna Gravalis*
 - i. Over break, we passed the Q3 budget. We also gave out the following:
 - 1. Asian American Association \$1,000
 - 2. Global Health Initiative \$1,000
 - ii. Reach out to me and Danielle for constituency events.
- b. Oversight – *Daniel Marchese*
 - i. Over break, I realized that the word 'Cabinet' does not appear in our Bylaws or Standing Rules, so I created the 'Cabinet' over break. I also changed the Bylaws and Standing Rules, so Oversight needs to meet and figure it out. We have a slew of appointments as well. Oversight, please meet me after this session so we can figure out a good time to meet.

V. Old Business

- a. 48-R-22 *A Resolution to Appoint Members to the Constitution and Bylaws Review Commission*
 - i. *Abby Waidelich*: We still haven't had a solidified member to commit to the CBRC. It's been difficult to find someone who would like to be involved in CBRC. We're looking for a Junior or Senior with no prior



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experience in USG. I will ask someone to table this until next week so that we can find someone to serve on the CBRC.

- ii. *Harper*: Is there any information you can provide me with for people who may be interested?
- iii. *Marchese*: We're waiting to figure out the membership. Deadline is three weeks to get it submitted. Myself, Ben Schulman, Levi Cramer, and Ross will write the whole thing. It'll most likely be a weekly meeting.
- iv. *Abby Waidelich*: If they've never been part of USG, the difficulty is in the learning curve since they don't know anything about USG and have never been previously part of USG. However, they'd be valuable because they would provide a perspective on what can be enhanced in the CBRC. It would be great on a resume if they are pre-law.
- v. **Motion to table.**
- vi. **48-R-22 TABLED.**

VI. **New Business**

- a. 48-R-25 *A Resolution to Support the Replacement of the Current Meal Plan System*
 - i. *Marchese*: 2,521,740. Those of you that have a pencil or laptop out, I would like you to write that number down or type it out. Okay. Now put a dollar sign in front of it. If you're not angry at this number by the end of all this, then I haven't done my job. First, I'd like to give a little background for those of you unfamiliar with the way in which the current dining plan works. There are three components to the plan: Dining Dollars, BuckID Cash, and Traditions Visits. I will save you the description of BuckID cash since you all have access to it. Dining dollars are the simplest part of these plans. Each plan comes with an allotment of dining dollars that you receive at the beginning of the semester, and continues to roll over all the way until graduation. They act just like a debit system, so when you spend dining dollars at any location on campus, your dining dollar balance decreases by the amount spent. When you spend dining dollars, you receive a 10% discount on on-campus food. A traditions visit is much more complex. Each of the non-unlimited plans designates a number of traditions



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visits you will receive at the beginning of every week. This number does not change on weeks with a university holiday, or during exams. The intended use of a visit follows its name: you trade it for one visit to a traditions location on campus: one of Scott, Morrill, or Kennedy. The exact value of a visit varies by time of day, which on a side note is a fact that is not advertised. At a traditions location, Breakfast is worth \$7, lunch is worth \$11, and Dinner is worth \$12. For the sake of our statistics, we will ignore what percentage of swipes are spent on each meal; meaning our average value for one swipe is \$10, or 9 dining dollars after the 10% discount. Visits are not that simple however, it unfortunately does not stop here. And this is where the problem begins. See, at 3AM on Monday morning, you lose all of the visits you have not used over the course of the previous week. This means that you will lose up to \$12 per unused visit. Let me put it this way: imagine that the entire contents of your bank account disappeared at the end of every week. Since this is a potential money-sink, dining has provided us with several options for spending your visits in alternative ways. The most useful of these alternatives is the VX or "visit exchange" program; which lets you exchange a single visit for an entrée, a drink, and a small side. This program has been fairly successful. The other alternative is to exchange a visit for 5 dining dollars, or \$4.50. Your next thought should be: "but isn't \$4.50 less than half the value of lunch and dinner, and \$2.50 less than breakfast?" That would be correct, so it would make sense that a \$5 exchange wouldn't be used terribly often compared to traditions visits: the intended usage. After all, more than 70% of the respondents to the USG dining survey felt confident in their ability to budget their meal plan effectively. And so starts our journey to 1,723,560. The data used in the Task Force Report indicates that there were over 380,000 uses of the \$5 exchange. Considering the percentage of students saying they could effectively budget their plan, we can't exactly chalk this up to careless spending. If anything, this would indicate that students don't realize how much money they are losing on a \$5 exchange, potentially because of the complexity



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associated with the visits system. In the best case scenario: if we assumed every meal that the \$5 exchange was replacing were breakfast, we see that this is a total loss of more than half a million dollars in value. But as we know, every meal isn't breakfast. This is what it looks like if we consider the average loss on a \$5 exchange. Unfortunately, this isn't the end of our story. In statistics from dining used in the task force report, the missed-meal-factor of the current plan is 8.3%. That means that of all of the visits allotted, 8.3% went unused. So if we consider the average of \$10 for a traditions meal...We have a total wasted value of almost \$800 thousand. And when we put that together with the \$5 exchange losses...There it is folks, our new favorite number. So let's summarize our current position: 8.3% of traditions visits allotted to students go unspent, leading to lost money. And if that's not enough, people are still losing money for utilizing their meal plan when they use a \$5 exchange. When you read the task force report, there is just no good faith way to chalk up all of this lost money to irresponsible budgeting. More likely as is indicated by the dining survey, a big part of the problem is an unnecessarily complex system, that is built in a way that at least partially guarantees the waste of money. So what's the solution here? What can we do to ensure that students receive the optimum value from their meal plans? The answer is actually pretty surprising: we're already halfway there. I want you to think of the way you spend money when you're off campus; whether it be on high street, the city of Columbus, or really anywhere in the world that has an established currency. You either spend money which you withdrew from an account (or from under your mattress), or you used a card that withdraws from an account with a declining balance. The fact of the matter is, the dining dollars section of your account is about as close as you can get to the way money is spent in real life. A system in which you have a certain amount of money, and each purchase withdraws a portion of that money. This is a debit system, which we'll call declining balance. And the good news is, this isn't hard to implement since we wouldn't be the first ones doing it. Among the



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many schools on declining balance are Virginia Tech, Bowling Green, Penn State, and Miami of Ohio. It shouldn't be too much to ask for a system that prepares us for budgeting in the real world. The system is transparent: I know at all times the exact amount of money I have left in my meal plan. The system is not wasteful: I don't have to worry about the units of my meal plan not being divisible, I pay the exact price of all of my transactions, and not a penny more. Finally, the fees associated with the system are viewable upfront. I acknowledge that there are some overhead costs associated with a dining operation; but I would much rather know that value up front. Especially when the alternative is slowly losing my money in unknown increments, completely obscuring how much I'm actually spending. So, I told you that you weren't going to like this number by the end of the presentation, however there is a catch, a rather big one actually. All the numbers I mentioned earlier are not even representative of a full semester...In fact, they are only ten weeks' worth of data, or about 2/3 a semester. This means that over the course of a semester, students stand to lose over \$3.7 million...or in one academic year, if the trends from last semester continue, students will be losing over \$7.5 million. Ladies and gentlemen, this number...seven and a half *million* dollars...should speak for itself. And it will only get worse next year when all sophomores will be required to live on campus and thus have a meal plan. Although the current system was designed with good intent, it is clear that it can't work, and it isn't an issue of poor execution. The current system is a bad deal for students by design. We, all of us, deserve a meal plan that is transparent, straightforward, and designed to prepare us for post-college life. We deserve declining balance. Plain and simple.

- ii. *Luther*: I would encourage everyone to sit down and read the Task Force Report. It has a lot of other very interesting information in it. Money loss isn't even the end of it.
- iii. *Warnimont*: Historically, the dining plan lasted a week. 2003 swipe and Blocks in 2012. The new change is ridiculous. There was no



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- student input in the new system, so we need to oppose it as strongly as we can.
- iv. *Greer*: The Task Force put in a ton of work into collecting survey results—864 responses on our report. They did all the work and I helped facilitate it. I encourage you to share it with everyone you know. I also encourage you to vote in favor of this for obvious reasons.
 - v. *Shaffer*: Read the report. Vote yes.
 - vi. *Gonzalez*: This resolution does an excellent job laying out all of our concerns and all the problems with the current meal plan and what we want in the future, so this would be an excellent tool in advocating in the future.
 - vii. *Bodey*: Dan approached me from a food and agriculture perspective. I would venture to say that traditions dining style creates food waste. Having a different style would help students budget for the future. Finally, I would say that this resolution does an excellent job of addressing issues that regional campus students face. Five hours at regional campuses. This dining plan for five hours instead of our twelve hours.
 - viii. *Belfiglio*: How many students live on campus and have a meal plan? I'd love to get a per-person loss.
 - ix. *Marchese*: Over 13,000 students with a meal plan. We have a report of the breakdown of students, but all of those numbers don't include problems resulting from the Unlimited plan. \$566 loss in value per student.
 - x. *Waidelich*: I have a couple questions. I was wondering. You gave that big number at the beginning. Do you have a number under the block system?
 - xi. *Marchese*: Most recent missed meal factor was 2%. 6.2% increase on the missed meal factor under the current system. I would imagine the number was smaller because people were very well aware of the alternative of using BuckID cash.
 - xii. *Waidelich*: Do you think they were more aware of suing BuckID Cash than Dining Dollars?



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- xiii. *Marchese*: Transactions were more mixed under Blocks, but now there's a fundamental loss with a \$5 exchange. You can't fix that balance with BuckID cash. When blocks expired at the end of the semester, if I had a crazy week, that's \$40 that I just don't get to use. The waste isn't coming from transactions as much as misuse of the plan due to complexity.
- xiv. *Kaczmarek*: I have two questions. Students are losing about \$7.5 million per year. Do we know where that money is going?
- xv. *Marchese*: That is a wonderful question.
- xvi. *Greer*: The \$7.5 million is an estimate that we rounded down. We rounded down the numbers across the board, so that's the value that students are losing. So when you have a visit and you don't use it, that's \$10 you're losing. Just so we're clear on what that figure means.
- xvii. *Marchese*: That's an excellent question.
- xviii. *Kaczmarek*: Do you know how much money is spent year-round on students on campus? Like do you know how much is spent by Dining per year on students?
- xix. *Marchese*: I'm not aware of the overhead costs. University Dining used to post an administrative fee on the website so that students knew, but that section has disappeared and they no longer post it.
- xx. *Honaker*: I really like the idea of a declining balance plus whatever that overhead cost would be, but do we know what that figure would be if we were to change it to declining balance plus overhead fees?
- xxi. *Greer*: It would depend on how the meal plan was laid out. Dining is a unique structure because they can't work like a restaurant. They get all their money at the beginning of the semester. In the Dining Task Force Report, I listed a lot of the university fees. Many of them may have \$1,000 overhead costs, so it's hard to compare us. People would prefer the transparency of that fee rather than have the inflated cost of food.
- xxii. *Honaker*: Would the overhead fee be different depending on how much students put on their balance? So like a commuter student plan would be less than a plan for a student who lives on campus, because the commuter student doesn't live on campus?



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- xxiii. *Marchese*: The last time they listed the up-front costs was with the administrative fee. If they did that up-front system, it probably wouldn't affect commuters, but I can't speak for dining on that.
- xxiv. *Luther*: One of the interesting avenues the resolution recommends is launching a pilot declining balance plan with the current plans. We'd see what the administrative fee would be and advocate from there.
- xxv. *Waidelich*: From a Dining perspective, they think this is an improvement from the blocks plan.
- xxvi. *Marchese*: During the Dining Discussions, Zia seemed very enthusiastic about the new plans. I don't know what the approval process for the new plans looked like, so maybe someone can speak on that, but I know it passed through Fiscal last year. There were a lot of problems with blocks, such as binge-spending at the end of the semester. I now yield my time to Sam Whipple.
- xxvii. *Whipple*: The meal plans are automatically reviewed by Fiscal. It is being reviewed again in the committee that Waidelich sits on. We were blocked into focusing on the flaws of the blocks plan, which were substantial. Lines out the door and inventory completely depleted in C-stores and dining areas. Couldn't get the full value out of the \$5 block, or the full \$10 out of two blocks. I believe that people genuinely thought that the new plans would correct these issues, but we realized that the new ones spawned many more problems. That's why the plan is being automatically reviewed in the fiscal committee. They wanted to make sure it was very carefully monitored as the new meal plan rolled out.
- xxviii. *Cramer*: Just a brief question. Do schools that have a declining balance have a fail-safe? For when students have \$20 left after two weeks into the semester? I would like to think that college students are responsible enough to handle a declining balance, but I'm not sure.
- xxix. *Greer*: It's dependent on the school and also dependent on whether or not the school had declining balance value roll over to the next school year.
- xxx. *Marchese*; most of the schools let you re-load that balance with money out of pocket.



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- xxxvi. *Rollins*: Any incentive where you get a discount like with the current Dining Dollars?
- xxxvii. *Marchese*: hope so. Rather large discounts at certain schools. Prices designed for
- xxxviii. *Greer*: The University of Virginia gives a 50% discount at a la carte locations and 67% at on campus dining locations.
- xxxix. *Kennedy*: Couple questions. Second to last let it further be resolved clause. Possibly in place of the Buckeye 5 plan. Was it proven to be the most inefficient or most wasteful plan?
- xl. *Marchese*: We found that students on the Buckeye 5 plan tended to use it as a declining balance plan.
- xli. *Greer*: This was also suggested by Zia as the one to be replaced.
- xlii. *Kennedy*: Any stats on how the current prices of food match up to regular prices like out in the real world?
- xliiii. *Greer*: Chobani yogurt \$6.50
- xliiii. *Marchese*: C-Store \$7 or \$8 for a box of cereal or \$15 for a pint of ice cream. I think there's a reason for the discounts. Whether they're big enough is another story.
 - xl. *Greer*: A lot of the reasons are the reason to cover operational cost. Inflation or increased prices of food, we don't know.
 - xli. *Waidelich*: Fee up front for declining balance was mentioned. In Dining report, a lot of pros but not many cons. Prices increase on campus due to fact that it's a declining balance. Did affordability decrease as a result of declining balance?
 - xlii. *Marchese*: Purpose of discounts at other schools is to incentivize use of meal plan. Costs associated with switching the plans: historically been super flexible about changing things without issuing fees. In the middle of the first semester of fees, buy blocks back from you at the end of the first semester using blocks. Can't imagine issue with switching plans. Reason for overhead costs is paying for lights, space, labor, etc. Okay if lost amount of money if I knew that was the case. An upfront fee shows you rather than slowly bleeding money.
 - xliiii. *Greer*: No direct results from other schools about things like affordability. Zia said before we created this new dining plan, student



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focus group. Reacted negatively to an admin fee during the student focus group.

- xliv. *Waidelich*: I meant the prices of food around campus. Would those prices increase as a result and therefore put more money on your declining balance?
- xlv. *Marchese*: I do not know the economics of the situation. It would all be speculative.
- xlvi. *Honaker*: I'm not sure what happened last year in the dining conversations, so I was wondering if the idea of a declining balance was brought up last year in discussions. What were admins' reactions to that and do we think they'd be at all willing to try to implement this?
- xlvii. *Greer*: In the focus groups, there was the idea of a declining balance brought up and Zia said it was negatively received.
- xlviii. *Abby Waidelich*: We switched from swipes to blocks. Then when blocks were implemented, it was our first semester of freshman year. Students had like 100 blocks left over, so that's why they did the \$3 reimbursement for the \$5 block. Two semesters later, students were still complaining that they had a lot of blocks left over. Lots of concerns, so that's when they had a task force. Created a group between a few members of USG and a few members of RHAC in one group. I was on senior staff last year and we didn't really discuss much with even senior staff. It was a very closed-door type of group. Celia and Leah advocated for declining balance so that's why we got Dining Dollars. Then they added the visits, which take away from the Dining Dollars. The other point to clarify questions in the room: Buckeye 5 plan was created late in the game. Scarlet 14, Gray 10, Access 7 were first visited. Buckeye 5 was created to be like a declining balance plan. They had this because they didn't want to make the administrative fee transparent. Heard a lot of student feedback at the Dining Discussions. The transparency aspect is more apparent because students are saying that their money is being taken away. Students will see that discussions are being held. Dining is enthused about it, as crazy as it



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sounds that they'd do something that we want them to do. Positively received by dining.

- xlix. *Marchese*: I have yet to meet anyone who served on that task force or had minutes from the task force. That was chaired by a company that was hired out. Students were brought in as guests of this "task force." They then had altering student opinions. So at that point, the student opinion was smashed, because there were so many conflicting ideas. That's why student opinion tonight matters. There was a lot of disagreement among students about what students wanted. There WERE no minutes. Students were backed into a corner and felt that they needed to approve something.
- l. *Bock*: So under the block system, 1 block or \$5 for breakfast, or 2 blocks or \$10 for the other meals. Do we know why those fees increased with the current plan?
 - li. *Marchese*: No.
 - lii. *Greer*: No.
 - liii. *Kennedy*: Declining balance of \$1000, would I actually end up paying \$1000 straight or \$1000 plus the administrative fee?
 - liv. *Marchese*: It would be \$1000 plus the administrative fee.
 - lv. *Kennedy*: Do we know what it is?
 - lvi. *Marchese*: Don't know.
 - lvii. *Greer*: It's a value that's very visible and tacked on and possibly increased greatly as compared to the past. Right now, the admin fee is paid for through the complicated meal plan. Advocating for transparency.
 - lviii. *Harper*: Always in the USG Office when Leah would come back from those focus groups. My question is what is your reasoning behind not including an area or clause in the resolution about student input in dining plan changes in the future?
 - lix. *Marchese*: I don't think we should review it every year because that would encourage us to change it every year. Not enough data to form a specific student opinion.



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- ix. *Harper*: Dialogue is opened upon the passing of this resolution. What type of reps should be there, students outside of any of this involved sphere. This year, what this legislation is trying to do.
- lxi. *Greer*: Excellent question, because the process was so skewed last year. Didn't include, because main intention was to suggest a structure that we want. I think it's important that we focus on this this year.
- lxii. *Abby Waidelich*: Appendix to what they passed last year. Fiscal has to review the plans every year now. Change or review financially every year. That's why it's being reviewed in fiscal again. Only avenue policy set with.
- lxiii. *Harper*: x amount of undergrads needs to review it?
- lxiv. *Abby Waidelich*: Just that committee.
- lxv. *Waidelich*: I have two questions. So right now dining is making new things like the VX and eventually to go meals. This resolution says that we want to do rollovers and the sample Buckeye 5 making it a debit system and eventually going into a declining balance system. Do we think best interest of students setting it all up right now or taking small steps saying we want a rollover system. More effect than just saying that this is what we want and this is what we want now?
- lxvi. *Marchese*: We don't like the current plan and we think it should be replaced with declining balance. We have two separate purposes for rollovers. First is vanishing traditions visits at the end of each week. Declining balance less lost value for students. Also, so we can give dining a trial without overhauling the system right away. I think it should be done under the umbrella of we want declining balance.
- lxvii. Move into discussion.**
- lxviii. *Belfiglio*: Fixed cost of operating on campus. It's fairly fixed. In every plan, there are various ways dining can help cover that. Up front fee cost \$400 a semester to pay that cost. Or dining could raise the cost to recoup that amount of money. We can make the plan easier and simpler and nicer to use. Yes you will see that amount of money up front, but the rest of the sem you can eat food like a normal person



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instead of running around on Sunday night wasting your money. It'll be simpler, easier, nicer.

- lxx. *Arato*: University will get the \$ it needs regardless of the plan. I've heard varying thoughts about blocks and swipes. We just know that the U will be getting its money. No guarantee that it'll be any better or cheaper for students. We're not working with much information, but the case is that the U is withholding a lot of it. If we're just fighting for transparency, I don't think that's a fight worth having. Whether I'm spending \$2000 today than spending \$2000 over ten weeks, I'm still spending \$2000. I'd rather pay \$2000 than \$2100 with.
- lxx. *Rollins*: It might be a lot more money. If we try to do something like this, the U might use it as a reason to increase the admin fee. We need to make sure that the U knows that we're going to get a massive fee. Don't want unnecessary fees.
- lxxi. *Gonzalez*: I would like to make two friendly amendments. Line 22 there are actually five different plans, but the Access 7 is not offered to first-year students or Resident Advisors.
- lxxii. *Warnimont*: We acknowledge that there are five plans, but there are four plans for first year students.
- lxxiii. *Gonzalez*: Lines 130-131. Change to more formal names. Kent State University, Univ of Wisconsin-Madison, Pennsylvania State University, Bowling Green State University, and Miami University of Ohio.
- lxxiv. *Challapally*: We've talked about transparency in this body a lot. With the current plan, there's abs no transparency. It's only when I use my DD or BuckID cash. Sometimes my salad can cost \$7 if I don't add certain things to it. In terms of transparency, the best thing for students esp with the new live-in requirement is that we pass this.
- lxxv. *Harper*: I think this is an amazing solution and I think it should be presented to the right people through a specific committee created to look at this. Obv some reviews put in place, but IMO I feel like we should review this so that our opinion isn't shut down. There wasn't power within that committee that we could fall back on to really push a solution. I think it's only effective if we know that we have a place where it can be effective. I'll be proposing a friendly amendment. I



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think it's good to note that it can do good, but it can't work if there's not a place where it'll work.

- lxxvi. *Frank*: I think we need to look at student health as well. Personally, I meet a lot with mental health orgs and eating disorders, but trad can cause undue stress onto indivs with eating disorders. They can go in and swipe an dnever eat and waste a swipe. Stress of an eating disorder can cause it. I do struggle with it so I have a personal perspective that having an eating disorder and having this sort of system is very, very uncomfortable. Declining balance I get to choose what to eat, how much I can eat. Much better system than what we have now for people with disorders and students overall.
- lxxvii. *Underation*: Miami my freshman year. You got a 25-30% discount on everything you bought. Better way of doing things. When I came to OSU I had blocks. No exp with the current plan. It worked well, it created waste but not as much waste as the current plan. Please vote yes this is a good deal for students.
- lxxviii. *Waidelich*: This new debit plan may save us money. Are we going to be saving money or are we going to be losing the same amount of money no mtater what?
- lxxix. *Kaczmarek*: I think we all want this system and we all really support it.
- lxxx. *Marchese*: A few things. Possibility that they could screw us and say we'll have a \$3000 admin fee. Sets a precedent that we'll fight back on it really hard if we don't have a fair shake. I'll be blown away if they don't include students in the discussion on forming a new plan. I think would also kind of address Harper's pt that after we pass this they'll want feedback from us. Obv they'll want to talk to us after we pass this. I have been through all three. As much as I hated blocks and I really hated blocks, I would much rather be on blocks than on what we have now. I don't think the prices of the food or fees will change, but I'm mostly concerned with students getting unevenly charged for the admin fee. Let's say it's \$500. Every student under declining balance gets \$500. If I'm an unfortunate student who's busy, I'm unevenly contributing to the cost of Dining's operations. I'm paying more to Dining to support their operations because I'm using the plan



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less. It should be the other way around, if anything. Even though blocks were a terrible deal, they were even better than this. Egregious. I have one amendment that we can't do as friendly, but I'd like to change line 154 and I'll bring it forward. This is an unfriendly amendment. "Let it further be resolved that the undergraduate student body believes that University Dining should implement an up-front allotment of dining visits (similar to blocks) as a short term solution to the issues enumerated in this legislation, and."

- lxxxix. UNFRIENDLY AMENDMENT ADDED.
- lxxxii. *Marchese*: Not in Dining's best interest bc it would create more problems for them. There's a lot more things I would prefer to miss.
- lxxxiii. *Belfiglio*: For people concerned about this: trust the fact that we have a university governance system. There will be student input during this. It will happen. The other real reason besides mental health eating disorders blocks encouraged you to buy excess food. I've eaten food just because I bought it. Declining balance wouldn't do that. Overall less food consumption on campus and save us all a bit of money. 10% of the food being bought is wasted or overeaten. If that wasn't happening, that's 10% savings. I think it's what students want.
- lxxxiv. *Bratton*: I want to say that I support this wholeheartedly. It teaches budget skills, which is great. Getting student input as new plan is developed. I think it would be wise to talk in detail about what we expect focus groups, councils, and committees to look like and how we expect the student voice to be voiced in future discussions.
- lxxxv. *Kennedy*: Transparency bring it up one more time since it's in the doc nine times. I think I should be able to see where my money is going and I think the res is going towards that, I just don't know if the transparency will be . If I'm paying \$1000 for food, then I expect to get \$1000 in food, nothing more and nothing less. I think it would turn users off. I'm trying to cover whatever can happen, but since we don't know the exact amount of admin fee and it would be exorbitant, I wouldn't put it past dining. I yield to Di Scala.
- lxxxvi. *Di Scala*: Scary to make statement that we want this declining balance system when there's a precedence at University of Maryland and Penn



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State with more expensive dining plans. I don't see point of sacrificing affordability for transparency. Funds need to happen to offset fee. We need \$ for that fee. I'm not saying blocks is a solution, but at least you had that option to spend the \$2 and get something for it. You weren't losing that much of the fee, whereas with the declining balance system there's no way for you to get that money back.

- lxxxvii. *Bock*: With the new amendment admin fee. Going along with that, I'm wondering if that's something that would go to all students or just students living on campus as they're required to have it as part of their meal plan. If I'm a commuter plan, I spend my money on campus, but I'm not going to want to pay the up-front cost when I could just do what I do now. The only way it would be fair is if all students were charged that. I just think there's a lack of clarity there.
- lxxxviii. *Bodey*: I apologize for this, but this is so that this is in the minutes and so someone higher up gets to read this later. My biggest concerns with dining plan are with health and wellness. Large latte instead of smaller latte. Easier to add a cookie. I would hate to see something like that happen again. owe my freshman 15 that. We assume that it's easy to make budgeting decisions. Choose a side to pair with something you would assume. Things you're offered shelf-stable so you can eat it later. This res may add costs to food items themselves to students eg commuters without dining plans. In the US, organic waste is the highest and methane emissions. 30-40% of food is wasted. I don't understand why an institution that is supposed to be with institutional buying power waste millions of lbs of food. Had to instill food waste systems at the Schott and the Shoe to address food waste. Plan with declining balance may allow C-Stores and other pot retailers to add grocery options. If student has declining balance that has produce, another opportunity for students to make health decisions. Unlimited traditions plans may work for some students, not all. In the end I'd hate to go back to blocks. Dec balance allows students to make those decisions.
- lxxxix. *Gonzalez*: Disabilities. Besides eating disorders students who are pre-diabetic or diabetic, students with extreme allergies or specific



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nutrient requirements have the same problem. This year and last year I've been on a meal plan. This summer, I ate like a normal person off the meal plan. I'd love to go back to something that normal, flexible, and transparent. I understand that there's concern over this fee, but we aren't just going to let the U have a \$5000 fee or something ridiculous. Past processes have been frustrating, which is why we need a sep resolution to address those concerns.

- xc. *Harper*: I'd like to propose an amendment. It would be going between the last two "Let it further be resolved" clauses, on line 164. "Let it further be resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government encourages Dining Services and University Senate Fiscal to create an OSU Dining Services Review Subcommittee with representation from USG, RHAC, and non-affiliated undergraduate support with a student chair in order to continue student and faculty collaboration throughout the entirety of the creation and transition of a new meal plan."
- xcii. *Warnimont*: Friendly amendment ", and" after "plan."
- xciii. *Harper*: Accepted.
- xciv. *Bock*: Friendly amendment spell out USG and RHAC
- xcv. *Harper*: Friendly.
- xci. *FRIENDLY AMENDMENT ADDED.*
- xcvi. *Fries*: I think this is jumping the gun and I think everyone's really upset with the current meal plan, but everyone was also really upset with blocks. Jumping the gun may cause bigger problems, especially if we're unsure if the University will end up screwing more students. As Di Scala said before, Penn State and University of Maryland had more expensive ones, and Virginia Tech has this but it's less expensive than our current plan, but they have a plan that has only 14 meals per week. I yield my time to Jenna.
- xcvii. *Gravalis*: It's not Dining charging you \$500. Part of reason we didn't go to declining balance option last year was the fee that would have to be paid to the vendor. Union and Marketplace would lose a lot of money. Traditions would lose all that money because it's expensive to there. Lose all the money for all those places, and we just built Scott. I would



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not advocate for declining balance, but you can vote however you want.

- xcviii. *Weisman*: Great job to everyone. With that said, after listening to some of the ladies in the back, I think that if this res is going to be the outline for what we want going forward with administrators, I'm not sure if we go in saying that we want a declining balance system. This might not necessarily be a better option. To advocate this plan currently I feel like is not necessary at this stage. We should say we don't like this block plan. I motion to strike lines 162 and 163 saying that we urge the University to adopt a declining balance system.
- xcix. *Rollins*: Pushed traditions way more than they admit to you, so it's a problem they will work on. I agree that declining balance may have a problem in discouraging people from going to Traditions so I think it's not going to be as much of an issue. Important thing to do would be for people from Dining Services--aka managers at Woody's, Marketplace, etc, to be involved in this process, because these are the people who have to work with this plan. Administrative fee--unsure how much of it would go towards the operating costs. I think it could be, but I doubt that it will. I think they'll try to make admin fee low and food prices higher. We should encourage dining to have all levels of workers be involved. Also keep in mind that prices will probably go up.
- c. *Abby Waidelich*: Dining is not allowed to increase the price of the meal plans. Housing couldn't increase their prices this year. Housing increased by \$10 this semester. It will change what's involved. \$2000 meal plan can't go up, would just change it. Declining balance can help you use that money you have more efficiently. Get more with same amount. Trading in that same amount of money for more food or options. Meal plans won't increase at all next year. Sorry if that's too late, but the second one is that the food prices involve a larger conversation. Sometimes Dining doesn't work as efficiently as it should eg hours of operation, meal preps, etc. Academic year meal plans pay for operating costs of Dining operations in the summer. I think the meal plans is your behavior of your money and how you



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spend it. The caveat is that the meal plan does drive how dining operates. With traditions and Sloopy's, the Union isn't as packed and isn't as full. I think tonight was the most people we've seen eating in the Union all year. If you haven't read the Task Force report, some of it is really important. That's why this convo is def going in the right direction, but I wanted to add the efficiency of dining being separate from the meal plan. The meal plans can increase in the future, but they won't next year.

- ci. *Marchese*: I want to be clear. A quick and formal straw poll of people who have a meal plan. Every single one of you is already paying an admin fee. You're not losing it up front, you're losing it through the way the meal plan is built. Ms Kennedy the issue is that declining balance is transparent. I know we say that nine times, but it is transparent. Miss Di Scala you're already paying for this admin fee. It's not a new number that's going to crop up. It's built into the way that the meal plan currently exists. The meal plan prices aren't going to go up. There's a reason we have that ceiling there. If we don't change things, things aren't going to change. I don't want this plan for the next five years because we didn't know exactly what we wanted just now. Miss Bock said the admin fee. It's backwards. The people paying most towards overhead cost of dining are people who are using their meal plans the least. Regardless of how it's absorbed, it's unfair. We're not jumping the gun it's five months of research. We did research on other alternatives. Declining balance is the best option. Yield time to Mr. Whipple.
- cii. *Whipple*: I will be working with this very extensively provided you pass it. I wanted to make a few comments since I've worked on this a lot with Annie Greer and getting this prepared for caucus. I wanted to address idea that putting the admin fee out in the open will somehow be a bad development for students. I'm inclined to disagree with that point. I agree that we will get pushback from students. Intuitively, it doesn't make sense. The only way to push back on admin fee is if it's outwardly open. The admin fee bleeds your meal plan out and as a result you have no idea how much money you're paying into Student



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Life. The only way we can push for real progress on the affordability front is if we know where our money is going. The current meal plan does a very good job of hiding that. I think it would be good to get that admin fee out there. You can channel that anger of having that admin fee into getting it lowered. Putting all those numbers out there in the open is the first step in accomplishing that. I also think there's a very legit argument in how we departed blocks and got to a meal plan that's in certain ways worse than blocks. You are not the be all end all of the meal plan. You're starting a process. The decision will be made with Abby Waidelich, in the full body of the University administrators. I think we've learned through the development of blocks in the final judgment for whatever plan we're moving to, we're going to weigh it very carefully. Is it better, empirically, for students? If not, I will ask our senators to say no. Given the overwhelming survey data received, this is not the case.

- ciii. *Marchese*: I yield more time to Basalla.
- civ. *Basalla*: First thing is in GA we do a lot of pointless things. I was a senator and I know how it feels. Over the next few weeks, this body will be able to do a lot of things to help students over the course of the coming years. I think that the main purpose is that we need to pass something. For him to do his job, we need to do it now. I'm not going to explain the steps, but going into committees after meetings, you see the roadblocks that can come ahead. We need to be prepared. We need to change the dining plans for next year. We need to pass something in this body to say that students don't like this plan.
- cv. *Marchese*: I'm going to say something else. We can't be afraid of change, otherwise nothing's going to change. The status quo is not working. Gerard is right. This discussion is wonderful, but I think the vote in this room has already been decided. I hope I'm the last one that takes up this much time. I move to set a three minute speaking limit.
- cvi. *Cramer*: Whipple's point. If we don't get this big lump sum fee in the form of an admin fee, Dining's probably going to raise prices. They're



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going to be angry at raised prices. They're going to get their money either way, let's do one that doesn't anger students as much.

- cvii. *Jackson*: I'm part of NRHH with the sister organization of RHAC. I get a lot of personal information from them that other people don't get to see. From my standpoint, it's a great resolution, but I don't think declining balance is a feasible solution for OSU at this time. VP Waidelich had talked that they can't do it through the meal plans, they're going to raise admin fees and students are going to get less than they're currently getting. CAACURH. We have residence halls at every university, called RHAs not RHACs. They don't have declining balance systems. I think we need to look a little closer and work with administrators now. RHAC's talked to them about it and they're already telling us no. I agree that it doesn't work at all, but instead of going at them with something they've already said no already. Zia does look out for students on their behalf. We need to figure out a different way to help our students. Taking up all this time talking about a plan they've said no to is just a waste of time.
- cviii. *Belfiglio*: I think that if we think that declining balance is the objective best plan and if Sam comes back in two months and says that it can't work, then we'll go from there. There's a fixed cost to feed students. I agree with Cramer. It's about choosing the way we want to spend our money and feed ourselves. The best way for students to interact with the food and meal plans. We should try to get the best.
- cix. *Greer*: Surprising results for health. Multiple out of 864 going hungry forcing themselves to have only one or two meals per week. 3/5 meal plans are partial meal plans. That is not advertised to students. Zia has been helpful. Pilot program would work. Scarlet 14 pages 16 and 17. Largest and full on campus meal plan only 2 on campus meals per day, 7 meals you're supposed to provide for yourself, but that only leaves students with \$4.50 Dining Dollars. Main goal is affordability and transparency, but if we go to declining balance, that lets students. We need to make sure students are eating healthfully.
- cx. *Honaker*: I think declining balance is great for on-campus students but it's an amazing concept for off-campus students. They don't go to



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commuter meal plan because it's \$475 or something like that. Up there with the highest of the normal dining plans. Commuters want to be able to have a dining plan because they can pay for it with financial aid. Administrative fee goes if I'm losing \$500 a year I would rather see it up front that I'm losing \$500. There's going to be an admin fee it's how dining works because we're getting our food from campus rather than an average grocery store. More involved this year. If students are in the discussion and have a voice I'd like to think that they could hit us with a \$1500/semester administrative fee. Not having traditions fee I'm on Buckeye 5 and I'm an athlete because after practice I'm starving. I'm vegetarian and there was meat in something that was supposed to be vegetarian. Traditions is not a good system for anyone so I think it's important to change this.

- cxii. *Waidelich:* Mr. Whipple and Mr. Basalla. I don't think this should be a fight. It needs to be a cooperation process. I believe this sparks a fight with administration and that's not how you get things fixed. Mr Whipple make students angry about this fee and students would be more pushing for this. If prices can't go up and meal plan quality of dining services and hours of operation, amount of workers could change and this could backfire on ourselves. I don't think this is a good way to do this. We're already losing money in Dining. I think University will look for another way.
- cxiii. *Harper:* KIS but basically this resolution as it stands is a great rep of what was in the report. We're here to be a voice for students as well as with resolution. Put your faith in the reps we have put on University Senate to do exactly what we're talking about doing. If we have to come back on a few of these points, that's what discussions are for. I will be voting yes on this resolution.
- cxiii. *Underation:* To those of you who disagree with the declining balance option, this resolution has no backbone without a very well thought out declining balance plan. This is what makes the most sense. To touch on what Waidelich said, this is a fight. When you take millions of dollars from students, it's a fight.



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- cxiv. *Bock*: That's not the smartest thing to do that leaves room for an error. So I'm wondering if it's better to leave it as is with a solid suggestion or to leave it more open-ended since it's most likely going to change anyways. I was wondering if Mr. Whipple thought was the best thing to do, so I'd like the yield my time to Mr. Whipple.
- cxv. *Whipple*: Permission to reject? I think this has very concrete, well-developed suggestions in the report and resolution. The intention of both is that they will go to faculty and administrators that are maybe on the fence about whether or not to pass this. This has to go through steering before it goes to CSA before it goes to the Senate, where students control a very small minority of the total voting bloc. This behooves us to have very concrete suggestions attached to everything we pass.
- cxvi. *Bock*: I'm done.
- cxvii. *Gonzalez*: I would like to reiterate the point that we are absolutely not jumping the gun on this. This is a 27 page report. We are ready to pass a piece of legislation like this we've been building up to it. We all have constituents on a dining plan. Students aren't happy with the dining plan. I encourage people to look at the report and listen to your constituents who don't like this plan. We aren't learning how to manage resources in this meal plan because these don't exist in the real world. U created Scott without student input. With it, we wouldn't have this massive dining hall because they built it for the meal plan. I know there are concerns about RHAC and NRHH. This is a process, and I can't speak for them, but hopefully they'll be able to change their mind and offer their opinions on the meal plan. I chose a meal plan that wasn't best for me, as an out of state student. A declining balance is more easily understood because it's universal.
- cxviii. *Shaffer*: If you want to be the person that can talk to your classmates or friends saying that I was okay with saying I am okay with losing \$7.5 million and I was part of the only voting body. You should vote for this.
- cxix. *Belfiglio*: They're very receptive to this plan. A lot of potential problems have been negated. If you've had a chance to read the



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report, it's very well researched. It shows that we need to make a change. I think it was an incredible amount of work, it was done extremely well, and if you read it, there's no way you would disagree with that.

cxx. *Marchese:* We've had a history of acknowledging that this meal plan is a problem, and I think it's a golden opportunity to seriously benefit students. I don't understand. Every single point about why we shouldn't adopt a declining balance have been debunked or disproven. I'm surprised by the amount of objection to this, but on another note, this was a good amount of discussion.

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cxxi. 48-R-25 PASSED WITH 42-2-0.

- b. 48-R-26 *A Resolution to Support a Columbus Campus Safety Town Hall*
 - i. *Challapally*: In the 2015 autumn semester, Ohio State has experienced a lot of safety concerns, including numerous armed robberies off



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campus, many acts of sexual violence, as well as a campus-wide safety threat. We, as members of the Undergraduate Student Government, need to act quickly to address and find solutions for these safety concerns on our campus. In the past, USG has dedicated many resources and efforts to addressing these issues. We should continue our efforts in advocating for safety at Ohio State by holding a Safety Town Hall, and inviting President Drake, Mayor Andrew Ginther, and members of the Columbus City Council to participate. Inviting these individuals will broaden perspectives and allow students and members of the Columbus community to interact face to face. We will also invite the OSU Police Department, and USG has a really amazing relationship with them. I believe that having the same quality relationships as in the past will increase relationships between USG and the campus community. Inviting these members will be very valuable as everyone acknowledges the need for a safety event. Since we as senators represent the entire student body, this is a way for the entire General Assembly to demonstrate that the student body would be in favor of a town hall to address safety concerns, and that the student body supports and actively invites them to participate in the event. Their attendance would help encourage increased governmental relations within USG and help provide new and interesting perspectives in our work moving forward. What this is saying is we want to attempt to start conversations to work together to help create new solutions to the problems that we're having. The resolution serves as a way of explaining the safety concerns Ohio State has, and inviting the individuals to be part of the solution. I hope you will all vote to advocate for increased safety among students as well as to encourage and foster relations between Ohio State students and the Columbus community.

- ii. *Sai*: Poe is in full support of this. Buckeye Block Watch has posted these off-campus safety town halls every month. These were unsuccessful and very few people attended, so they discontinued them. when I presented this idea to them, they were very very skeptical. In addition, we have only had campus safety events for the



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off-campus community, but the idea of safety, from a diversity perspective, is for all students. This would be the first of its kind to include safety of all students, and it would be in relation to the city of Columbus. Most crimes happen in Columbus, but the entire off-campus area is affected. I've been told that the new mayor is sitting on a large sum of money he is looking to put to good use. One area they could use it for is to improve safety concerns in the area we live in. I've spoken to members of the Columbus City Council. By inviting these people to our safety town hall, they can get a huge perspective on what our concerns are, and they may be able to fund us later with our safety concerns.

- iii. *Gonzalez*: City Council members have spoken at College Democrats and have addressed a lot of these safety concerns. This is something they're interested in, and by doing this we're asking them to help us with our safety issue.
- iv. *Bodey*: You should have received a powerpoint Sai created that Danielle sent out. This outlines a lot of his work and thought processes. I want to make it clear that this resolution is not creating this, but we are creating who is attending this. This represents who we think should be included in this Town Hall. That lists out governance organizations that would be strategically involved in that discussion. On slide 24, our list of student organizations as referenced in the second to last "Let it be resolved" clause lists organizations of students that should be involved. When thinking of your constituency, know that these will be your organizations. I want to commend Sai on his work, and from a government relations standpoint, we'll make process on the off-campus side and with the Columbus City police moving forward.
- v. *Belfiglio*: This is a weird question, but I'm wondering why you're not including Hardin and Tyson.
- vi. *Challapally*: The Town Hall is not restricting to those four people, but those people seem to be the most interested in advocating for OSU students.



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- vii. *Sai*: I spoke with Elizabeth Brown and she recommended these four. We could be open to inviting the entire Columbus City Council.
- viii. *Souders*: Do you have a plan for one each in the fall and spring semesters, and continuing in the future?
- ix. *Sai*: Buckeye Block Watch supports once per semester and not once per month. They said they would help.
- x. *Buss*: Please speak to the necessity of this resolution. We could have a town hall without a resolution.
- xi. *Challapally*: That's what I thought too. I think this one invites individuals to the town hall because we represent the student body. Having the GA support this means that students support them having a seat at the table. That's valuable in having a face to a name and having face-to-face contact. This helps in fostering relations and moving forward and helping students understand what is going on.
- xii. *Bodey*: There is some concern from students that issues that begin in Cabinet don't represent them. We can't guarantee that what Cabinet makes is representative of students. There's no way for an additional student representative like in GA. That's why a resolution for something so high-profile is necessary from GA.
- xiii. *Gonzalez*: I have experience with working in a political office, and I know that sometimes invitations sit in the office for a while. A resolution may carry more weight for these people. We would want this to happen as soon as possible instead of at an inconvenient time for students or for them.
- xiv. *Souders*: Are we expecting the members to become more knowledgeable on the campus safety problems? What's our expectation from this event?
- xv. *Challapally*: Be more aware of the situation but be part of the solution where we learn from their perspective so students can learn from them as well.
- xvi. *Sai*: In previous administrations, the presidents of the student government have reached out to city council members for funding. We want to reach out to them. I think this would start us on the right path for ways they can help us.



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- xvii. *Souders*: I was going through the PDF you put together, and you mentioned that Gee had a few closed-door meetings. Do you know what came from Gee's meetings?
- xviii. *Sai*: Funding through that, which started great initiatives and programs. I'm not sure where that task force stands right now through that perspective.
- xix. *Abby Waidelich*: Off campus safety committee still exists through University Senate, but it's not necessarily still established.
- xx. *Fisher*: I apologize because I'm unrehearsed in GA procedures. Glass had an idea that he wanted to question the word "campus" and how it's defined. Can I propose a friendly amendment to change it to "Columbus campus"?
- xxi. *Abby Waidelich*: You can propose things in discussion.
- xxii. *Belfiglio*: I think it's rude to single out certain council members, so I think we should engage the entire Columbus City Council. We've talked to these people a lot during this last fall semester and from their comments it seems like they're all very receptive to this. Friendly amendment to strike "newly elected" and add "Honorable Priscilla R. Tyson and Honorable Shannon G. Hardin."
- xxiii. *Cramer*: I recommend that people get on board with this project.
- xxiv. *Warnimont*: Line 38 amendment "President of the" Columbus City Council.
- xxv. *Frank*: Amend title of resolution to "Columbus Campus Safety Town Hall" and in line 34 to "Columbus campus."
- xxvi. **Motion to pass with unanimous consent.**
- xxvii. **PASSED with unanimous consent.**

VII. Announcements

- a. *Marchese*: Oversight committee, please come see me because we have a lot of stuff to do in our next meeting.
- b. *Whipple*: Caucus is tomorrow from 4-5pm in the Hayes Cape Room of the Ohio Union. It's pretty much above this chamber and down the hall a little bit. If you want a chance to work with the issues discussed today, we're going to have an issue breakout about dining specifically.



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- c. *Abby Waidelich*: University Senate is next week, and President Drake will be giving the much-awaited State of the University address next week. General Assembly will also be next week, and Steering will be this Sunday.

VIII. Adjournment