

SYNOPSIS:

In mid-August 2023, communications were sent to limited UHD stakeholders indicating that as of September 1, 2023, Chartwells would be the sole provider of catered food services for UHD for all food orders over \$100, and that Chartwells would enjoy the “right of first refusal” on those catering contracts. No campus-wide communication was distributed regarding this arrangement prior to the September 1, 2023 deadline.

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS, access to healthy and affordable food is a human right;

WHEREAS, Chartwells food service is sub-standard and non-competitive in quality, selection, and price, compared to comparable food service vendors in close proximity to the University of Houston-Downtown;

WHEREAS, Chartwells food service refuses to maintain food service operations in the One Main building past 3:00 PM to serve UHD stakeholders;

WHEREAS, Chartwells food service refuses to provide for reasonable food service operations in other UHD buildings to serve UHD stakeholders;

WHEREAS, UHD Departments, Student Organizations, Sponsored Programs contracts, and UHD Faculty and Staff do not have large discretionary budgets to spend on catered food for events in service of the Mission of UHD;

WHEREAS, UHD Departments and Student Organizations have not had an increase in discretionary funds in many years;

WHEREAS, the providing of healthy, quality catered food and beverages is necessary to recruit and retain UHD students and is in furtherance of the UHD Mission;

WHEREAS, the UHD administration failed to provide timely and complete information about the ‘UHD management’ origin of this “right of first refusal” and sole-source food service agreement between Chartwells and UHD;

WHEREAS, UHD administration has not made it clear under what circumstances “right of first refusal” can be waived, and this decision currently rests solely under the discretion of the Director of Auxiliary Services;

WHEREAS, UHD administration made it clear that excessive cost and food quality will not be a reason to waive ‘right of first refusal’;

WHEREAS, UHD administration and Auxiliary Services believes that processed food from vending machines is a reasonable response to the lack of access to quality and reasonably priced nutritious food options at UHD;

WHEREAS, the latest survey about dining services sent by the Director of Auxiliary Services clearly indicates the staff, faculty, and students desire for better food quality, expanded hours of operations, competitive and affordable food prices, and healthy food choices.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the UHD Faculty Senate formally request the immediate suspension of the sole-source food service agreement and “right of first refusal” agreement between UHD and Chartwells in perpetuity.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that UHD Faculty Senate formally request the immediate expansion of hours of operations to provide food services during the evening hours of operations beyond 3 p.m.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that UHD Faculty Senate formally request the immediate plan of action to provide accessible, competitively priced, quality food choices at all classroom buildings.