

Real Food Working Group Meeting
Thursday, December 4th, 2014 4:00pm-5:15pm
Aiken 311

Attendees

Students

Annalena Barrett, Maria Carabello, Alyssa Johnson, Jennifer Porter, Olivia Peroco, Olivia Peña, Gina Clithero, Molly Duff, Zachary Fayer

Administration/Staff

Alison Nihart (Assistant to the Food Systems Initiative)

University Dining Services

Caylin McKee (Sustainability and Social Media Manager), Brian Roper (Executive Chef),
Melissa Zelazny (General Manager)

Faculty

Calculator Interns

Kayla Strom

Agenda

Facilitator - Annalena Barrett

Notetaker - Jennifer Porter

Class Updates (Annalena) - 10 minutes

- Barriers to Local Food Class Report Back
 - Olivia and Annalena were in the class and they both really enjoyed it
 - Alison and Caylin attended class presentation on Monday
 - Class conducted feasibility studies for local grains, dairy, and maple
 - They concluded that:
 - a relationship with UVM Proctor Maple Research Center may be feasible
 - King Arthur organic flour may be a feasible option, since their grain is not locally sourced
 - Green Mountain Grain was really excited to scale up and partner with UVM
 - Melissa/Brian: Since there is no real way to get local white flour local grain/flour options would necessitate creative applications
 - Brennans is using local flour to bread chicken tenders
 - Thomas Dairy may be a good option. They are willing to pursue certifications or create specific products for UVM
 - UVM Dairy was not really interested in partnering since they sell to the commodity market and do not process their milk.
 - Melissa: UDS is thinking about how to turn their milk into a value-added product (i.e. ice cream) or getting them to sell to Thomas Dairy
- Soda Tax and Meat Consumption Class Project Survey Results
 - Annalena did a group project for a class this semester for which she surveyed students about the ideas of using a soda tax to subsidize local

food and reduce the quantity of meat on campus in order to get better quality meat

- The majority of students were in favor of both measure
- The results are exciting but may not be representative—more research needs to be done

Committee Updates

Implementation Committee Update (Caylin)

- Continuing to experience glitches with the calculator; working with calculator people to address them.
- RFC will not give you your results until you complete an exit interview in Jan. or Feb., so UDS will try to get numbers independently
- Kayla will be staying on as a calculator intern, and possibly Joe as well.

Outreach Committee Update (Jennifer)

- Across the Fence—have not heard any news about when it will air
- Jennifer will check in with Becky

Student Club Update (Olivia/Alyssa)

- Northeast Implementation Retreat report back
 - At the retreat students connected with fisher people, NAMA, and SlowFish
 - Olivia joined a new working group that is working to get small scale fishermen connected with universities
 - Reds Best (kind of like a food hub for fish) is doing business with Sodexo in Boston and wants to go through distributors (i.e. Sysco). Brian talked with him this morning and will continue the conversation.
- SGA update
 - Got risk management approved so they are just waiting to present next semester.

Reflecting on the Fall Semester

- Thoughts? Feelings? Concerns? Inspirations?
 - The implementation group never met as a full group; the transition from Calculator to Implementation committee never really happened.
 - Kayla is interested in sharing leadership of the Implementation committee with Caylin
 - We finally approved all of our policy documents!
 - The RFP process was very exciting and education and everyone dedicated a lot of time and energy to the process
 - Alison and Annalena will check in with group members that have not been present this semester
 - We need to try to ensure that faculty members continue to stay involved with the group—they are an important stakeholder in the group
- Group Dinner on December 10th
 - We can use our budget to buy food
 - We can cook in the foods lab or at Alison's house
 - Put it on your calendar!

Outlook for the Spring Semester - 30 minutes

- RFWG Policy Committee restructuring
 - The policy group has completed its role, so we need to decide what that group will do/look like next semester
 - Based on the RFP process there may need to be tweaks made to our policies
 - The committee should not be dissolved but should take on new tasks.
 - The group can track data for the multi-year action plan
 - Some of the members could assist the implementation committee and help out with research about dairy or grains
 - The group could take on research about innovations or technology, such as infrastructure or traceability
 - They could take on research that could inform policy decision (i.e. surveys)
- Outreach committee could do more brainstorming and strategizing and then the student club could implement outreach on the ground
 - It might make more sense to dissolve the outreach committee and go to a more project based structure. We could have one or two point people for outreach to make sure everything gets done.
 - Someone from the student club could work with Zach to work on labeling
- Research Internships - get credit for your work on the RFWG
 - Annalena did an independent study for her co-chair work this semester
 - Olivia is doing an internship for her work on a national RFC working group
 - Contact Alison if you would like to get credit for your work with the RFWG
- RFC events
 - There may be a regional retreat next spring, similar to the one last year
- Farm to Institution New England Summit at UMass Amherst next summer
- RFR Migrant Justice campaign
 - Annalena, Olivia, Olivia, and Alison are meeting with Migrant Justice next week to discuss how UVM and Middlebury students can support the Milk with Dignity campaign
 - The Real Food Revolution will take leadership on this because it is more of an activist role
 - The meeting is at 11-12:30 next Wednesday in Aiken 311
 - It may be helpful to have dining folks at the meeting
 - Alison will ask if they want to open the meeting up to Real Food Revolution
- Earth Week
 - Start thinking about what we should do!
- Percentage Party at the end of the spring semester
 - Alison and Annalena came up with this idea in Kentucky to celebrate *all* the people who make the RFC possible (e.g. dining workers) to celebrate the progress we make each year
 - Students could cook for the dining workers?

