Associated Students Undergraduate Senate
Dining Services Proposal
April 23, 2015

The Student Life Committee of the Associated Students Senate would like to suggest a revised meal plan involving a to-go box option during meal-swipe hours.

A student’s day-to-day schedule of classes, studying and extra curricular activities can often demand time away from eating a full meal at the SLP. While the University encourages students to enjoy their dining options and spaces, it may be unrealistic to assume that every time a student elects to eat a campus meal they also have the time to stay and eat it on site. During midterms, out-of-class meetings, and otherwise busy nights, it would be much more convenient and productive for the student if they had the option to take their inner to go rather than skipping it, eating very little, or stealing their plate and silverware altogether.

Next year, our campus will feel bigger. Beginning in Fall 2015 all sophomores are required to live on campus, and their presence will be felt in more than just the residence halls. The SLP will begin to feel more crowded, as more seats will be filled. Adding a limited option of to go boxes may sometimes repel students from eating at the Pavilion, but it may also prevent a steady overflow that we will see with a spike in sophomore attendance. Essentially, to-go boxes will assist in keeping the SLP slightly less crowded by providing an option to eat elsewhere, while maintaining its mission to foster community by limiting the amount of to-go boxes that can be used.

If the dining administration and computer-program permits, the Student Life committee suggests a "to-go" meal swipe option that students can use when electing to utilize a to-go box during mealtime. These can be seen as a sort of "enhanced meal swipe." This way, students must budget their to-go’s wisely, thus keeping the SLP full of life and conversation. This solution will also prevent students from taking large amounts of food, since each pass with a to-go box is a separate meal swipe. The Student Life Committee also believes that this plan has the potential to decrease stolen and misplaced dishes in the future.

We are open to discussion, advice, and comments, as we seek to provide a solution that is fit for every party at the University of San Diego.