

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXX, Number 131, 26 November 1996 — Dining services rep attends SGA meeting
[ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]

Dining services rep attends SGA meeting

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Spectator Staff Writer

Barnard Student Government Association (SGA) members welcomed Aramark Director of Marketing Management Paul Williams back for a second week to field questions and suggestions regarding the enhancement of Barnard's dining services.

In the course of the meeting, Williams emphasized his desire to extend Aramark's relationship with students beyond "having good cooks and managers to having good contact with students." Aramark handles Barnard's dining services.

SGA members were quick to bring up dissatisfaction with the current meal plan, which requires all students living in the Quad to be on a weekly 10-, 14-, or 19-meal program.

According to Williams, this policy is a Barnard administration rule. However, he said, Aramark and Barnard are making an increased effort to work jointly on such issues.

Complaints about dining services included the lack of nutritious food options in Hewitt in comparison with John Jay. According to Senior Representative to the Board of Trustees Carrie Franklin, BC '97, plain pasta, grilled chicken and baked potatoes are offered every evening at John Jay, while

many Hewitt entrees are served in heavy sauces.

"I have known many people here with eating disorders and even those who just want to watch their weight, and all they can eat [at Barnard] is salad every night. It gets a little depressing," said Columbia College Student Council Liaison Leora Hanser, BC '99.

Aramark presently provides alternative dining plans for lactose intolerant, kosher and vegetarian students, but Williams stressed that it looks to extend its customer satisfaction even further.

"We already cater to a wide variety of dining needs. If all that is necessary is grilled chicken and some steamed vegetables, that is very easy to provide. We just all need to agree," Williams said.

Low access to dining facilities for commuter students also concerned SGA members.

"I wish that Aramark were more commuter friendly," said former commuter and Officer to the SGA Board Pauline Grinberg, BC '98. "I felt so used by Aramark. Maybe something in the commuter lounge would be practical. So many commuters schedule classes back-to-back that they need quick-access food."

SGA Treasurer Yuliana Gomez, BC '98, who is also a commuter, suggested that Williams hold a forum in the commuter lounge. Williams agreed, proposing certain commuter-friendly options such as being able to use Barnard dining points at local eateries and providing boxed lunches.

Barnard Junior Class President Helen Elissian proposed giving leftover food to area homeless people.

"We feel Barnard has a responsibility to the homeless people that live around us. Together with Aramark's generosity, we could make a big difference for some of those people," Elissian said.

Williams supported the idea but cited two main obstacles to its execution: litigation, should a recipient get sick, and security problems, if "bums start hanging around the gates."

In response, SGA members suggested working with Aramark to distribute leftover food off-campus.

In other SGA news, Sonia Lander, BC '98, recipient of a 1996 summer grant from SGA, described her summer project that involved interviewing female AIDS victims. As a result of her research, Lander produced a movie entitled "Women and AIDS," and plans to show it at Columbia next semester.



STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER—GENA PEDITTO

President of the Bronx Borough Fernando Ferrer criticized the public school system in a speech in IAB last night.