Maguire Proposes Closing Three Dining Halls

Coop Offers Rebate on Textbooks

Maguire, R. Wisertanne, associate director of housing and food services. "Meal plans will still be available to students who want to purchase them, Maguire said. "We will change the meal plan to suit whatever anyone wants. It's obviously in our best interests to have what the customer wants," said Alan Leo, general manager of food services.

"Baker House will probably be a la carte. We'll look at proposals that make it financially self-sustaining," Maguire said.

The Baker dining hall was selected to remain open because of its location and facilities. "It's the right place for the flow of students. Also, it has the most limited facilities for students to cook. And it has the biggest kitchen in the back room. We'll try this, and if Baker is not necessary, we'll close it," Maguire said.

Next House also has limited kitchen facilities. Each floor of McCormick and MacGregor is equipped with kitchens.

The new proposal will cut the cost of running the four dining halls, which last year cost $300,000. The Baker House dining hall will definitely not lose as much money under the plan, said McNellis.

"Running the [food service system] on a voluntary basis is a gamble. we'll have to take," Maguire said.

"It's going to help the Institute if it saves money. To [ARA], it is neither a financial gain or loss," said Leo. MIT subsidizes ARA for losses incurred by the four operating house dining halls. Leo does not foresee any major change in food quality. "Quality is subjective. We'll serve everything you want us to at Baker," he said.

Hours of operation have not been decided yet.

Reactions from students

Students welcomed the proposed suspension of mandatory meal plans. "I think that's good. If I can still eat wherever I want, it will be a good change," said Michelle M. Scher '96, a Baker resident.

"I think it is a better idea. I know a few people who were going to leave McCormick because of the previous house dining plan," said Sandhya Raju '96, a McCormick resident. "I would go to Baker to eat, but probably make more use of the Student Center facilities."

"We have kitchen facilities so I have rarely used the dining hall, so I would like to have the meal plan taken away," said Christie S. Nelson '94, a MacGregor resident. "I only use Lebeld so I would get a declining balance because it is convenient."

Some students would like a different dining hall to remain open. "I think they should open Next House because it is far from campus," said Next House resident Wyne Kwan '95. "I personally wouldn't want to trek out to Baker. Most people would go to the student center rather than Baker because it is the same distance. The voluntary meal plan is fine, but I don't think they should close Next House. It's easier for MacGregor, New House, and Next House residents."