A student orders an entree during Baker House's Tuesday night "All-You-Can-Eat" dinner offer, part of ARA's continued efforts to keep the facility open.

Residents, ARA Act to Prevent Closing of Baker Dining Hall

By Deena Disraeli
The Chronicle

Following recommendations made by Baker House residents, ARA is making changes in Baker dining hall services. These changes are expected to save the dining hall from possible closure due to revenue loss.

Baker dining hall is now offering All-You-Can-Eat meals on Tuesday nights, in response to results from a Baker Dining Committee survey. This program began last week and will run until the end of the term. Previously, the dining service offered a la carte every weekday.

In addition, dinner hours will be extended from 6 to 8 p.m. in 5 to 8 p.m. in order to cater to more students' schedules. "Baker House has been told for the past year that it is in danger of losing its dining hall," said Baker Dining Committee Chairperson Albuch Hsu '96. Baker dining hall is currently operating in a deficit because not enough students eat there to maintain a zero deficit situation.

Next fall, MIT will stop subsidizing food service losses and will no longer tolerate a deficit. So far this year, MIT has lost $900,000 on its dining services. This is down from last year's $1.2 million deficit at this time.

"If we don't change the numbers at Baker, [dining hall] as we know it right now will close," said Eddie Cogliano, food service director in charge of MacGregor Conveniences, and Baker and Next House Dining. "Closing things is not the answer."

By Eva May
The Chronicle

At $20,100, MIT will top the list of schools for the past year 1994-95 academic year, along with schools such as Princeton University, Harvard University, Stanford University, and Yale University. The total projected cost of attending MIT will be $28,800, which includes tuition, room, board, travel expenses, and textbooks. In addition, self-help requirements jumped from $7,100 to $7,650, a 7.7 percent increase.

The Academic Council approved the tuition increase on March 6.

"It would be upsetting if tuition increased to the point where I no longer could [afford to] go here," said Michael J. Whiston '97, who added that he could have gotten a "free ride" from the University of California at Berkeley.

Whiston said that working six to eight hours each week only covers his personal expenses.

Erika K. Schmitt "95 echoed that sentiment. "I've even earned in a year is about $3,000."

She added that she is looking for a summer job in industry because the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program does not pay enough.

Kumit Tukovinit '94, even projected the cost of tuition and self-help in the future. He said he calculated that by the year 2002, at the current rates of increase, self-help ($558,135) will finally exceed tuition ($558,695).

"Still, those involved in the decision [to raise tuition] try very hard to look at any data they have which gives insight into the real burdens that students and their parents carry," said Arthur C. Smith, dean for undergraduate education and student affairs.

"Those data, plus the continuing high demand for admission to MIT, suggest that a lot of people believe that the education is worth the cost and that the resultant economic burdens are bearable," Smith said.

President Charles M. Vest said that the growing tuition rate "is a major motivation for our current efforts to reduce its operating expenses."

Some of the factors affecting the tuition increase include the extension of MITNet into undergraduate living groups, an increase in subscription prices of periodicals in the libraries, and an increase in salaries for faculty and staff, said Provost John B. Wilson.

Even so, tuition traditionally only covers half of the cost of an MIT education, according to James J. Culliton, vice president for financial operations. The institute makes up $18 million of the difference with grants from unrestricted funds, he said.

By Nicole A. Sherry
The Chronicle

The Association of Student Activists finalized the room allocations for all student clubs last night. Twelve groups gained space while two lost their rooms.

The clubs will move into their new rooms this summer. According to its review since 1988 that room allocations have been reviewed, according to Jun B. Lee '94, ASG president. The Executive Board assigned office space to 60 of the approximately 160 recognized student activities, he said.

"Part of the reason for this happening now is the fact that there are many older organizations which have changed their focus or are not as active as they used to be, therefore they need less space," said Saikat Basu, advisor to student activities. "There is also a list of many new organizations who are very active and need office space."

The student groups that gained space are planned.

"Our club has grown to 450 members since 1988," said Jayant Kumar '95, president of the Indian Student Association. "We strongly needed extra space, which will enable us to be more unified and more organized," he said.

"We will be able to expand our activities," said Alan F. Coronado '96, president of Club Latin. "We are planning to share the room with other Latin organizations by allowing them to use it for meetings. It enables us to serve our purposes of promoting Latin unity," he added.

By Sarah Y. Keightley
The Chronicle

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