

Limitation of meal plan fundraising negatively affects student organizations

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Senior Reporter

Elon University's food-service provider, ARAMARK, has changed its policy of meal swipe fundraising for campus organizations this semester, modifying the previous unlimited amount to a maximum of 250 per week.

According to Jeff Gazda, ARAMARK's resident district manager at Elon, the only constant in ARAMARK's policy is change.

According to Gazda, the limitation placed on the company's policy of meal swipe fundraising is a result of its support being facilitated in other locations on campus.

"We're still doing meal swipes, but this year we did put a little bit of a limitation on them because to start the year off with a big bang, we committed the \$50,000, one-time donation to fund the whole year of campus kitchen, so there's only so much to go around," Gazda said.

Gazda said that because ARAMARK is a campus organization, it aligns with Elon's goals of service learning. He said the company is donating to on and off-campus philanthropies through means other than meal swipes.

"Elon being very involved and committed to community stewardship, we're heavily involved in that area," Gazda said. "We're really intertwined in the community, as we should be. What we have to use, we use. We do everything that we can to support many philanthropies on and off campus."

According to Gazda, ARAMARK's meal swipe policy this year allows campus organizations to collect a total

of 250 meal swipes per week. He said groups are given \$2 per swipe which represents the average excess amount of food a student does not eat per meal.

"What (it) represents is basically just the food that you did not eat in the dining hall for that given meal," Gazda said. "What we're giving back to you is what you didn't use as far as consuming of the actual food, but everything else we still have to pay for."

Heidi Frontani, the mentor of the Periclean Scholars class of 2010, said she believes the new change is a result of the large donations collected last year through meal swipe fundraising.

"Last year (ARAMARK was) even more generous and allowed one organization per week but set no swiping limit," Frontani said. "I believe they were rather surprised by the results. Single groups were collecting in excess of \$4,500 in a single week."

Frontani said ARAMARK honored the amount of swipes collected and donated accordingly, but she said she believes the company realized its unlimited policy could not continue. She said the Periclean Scholars classes, especially the class of 2010, have greatly benefited from meal swipe fundraising and donations via ARAMARK.

"The 2010 Periclean Class raised over \$92,000 in just over three years, and ARAMARK was by far our largest single donor," Frontani said.

Jamie Milliski, a member of the Periclean Scholars class of 2012 who handles finances for the class, said Periclean Scholars has suffered from the limitations. She said because Periclean Scholars is not considered a campus



Under a new ARAMARK policy this year, organizations on campus can collect a maximum of 250 meal swipes per week, each worth \$2, or the average excess amount of food a student doesn't eat.

organization and therefore does not receive funding from the Student Government Association, it has relied on meal swipe donations heavily in the past.

"This year, ARAMARK implemented a policy of a maximum of \$1,000 per semester for each organization," Milliski said. "Therefore, our class can only receive \$2,000 from meal swipe donations, as compared to \$20,000 from meal swipe donations last year. This is a great difference that obviously has led to our class brainstorming new ideas for fundraising."

Milliski said ARAMARK's records state the Periclean Scholars program received the vast majority of the total meal swipe donations last year. She said many individuals forget the program consists of three cohorts, which individually

collects funds for different philanthropies although they are all under the same title of Periclean Scholars.

"However, it is important to note that Pericleans did not take all of the available time slots to solicit meal swipe donations," Milliski said. "This large number was a result of effective fund raising."

Milliski said a majority of the \$20,000 collected last year for the 2010 class was wired to its partner in India, the Comprehensive Rural Health Project, to fund its Adolescent Girls Program for an entire year. She said the remaining funds were donated to the Haiti earthquake relief.

Similarly, Alexander Dempsey, the president of Elon's Habitat for Humanity chapter, said the organization has suffered from the new policy as well, but more

because of its inaccessibility.

"The new reader policy makes it hard to be able to raise a whole lot because it is extremely hard to schedule," Dempsey said. "Last year we received roughly \$500 from it, (but) in previous years it had been much more."

He said as a result of this, Habitat for Humanity is trying to be more proactive in scheduling events pertaining to meal swipe fundraising by booking them seven months in advance.

Gazda said despite the limitations placed on meal swipe fundraising, this source of funding is only one way the company gets involved throughout the Elon community.

"It's not the be-all and end-all of our involvement," Gazda said. "I think it's still a good program. It's doing what it needs to do."

Charges brought by administrator after tip from student staff

SGA from PAGE 1

charges, when the students opened the door with the master key, the room "reeked" of alcohol and Martin stated he "wanted to hang out." They also reported that Martin was not wearing any shoes and had his shirt unbuttoned.

The charges note that the group had left the premises by midnight.

In her report, Patterson noted the issue has been referred to Elon's Office of Judicial Affairs and she filed the charge to determine whether SGA policies were violated by the presence of students in the office.

In Martin's official statement, read by Long, he wrote that he returned to his office in Moseley to change clothes after the formal and pick up his date's belongings before continuing to socialize.

"There was no drinking done in my office," he wrote.

Martin's date to the formal, left unnamed throughout the hearing, submitted a similar statement concerning the events of the night, noting that Martin was polite when he answered the door and spoke to the student staff.

Character statements, submitted from Executive Treasurer Matt Campbell and Patterson, were also read by Long in defense of Martin.

"(Martin) views SGA as his highest responsibility on campus," Campbell wrote. "He would never deliberately jeopardize his position."

Patterson noted her appreciation and

regard for Martin's handling of the event after being notified of the charges.

"He continued to carry out his duties and moved forward with projects and initiatives," she wrote.

In her concluding statements in Martin's defense, Long emphasized that Martin is legally permitted to drink alcohol, and thus would have no reason to hide in order to consume it.

Though the student staff who first reported the incident described Taylor's clothing as disheveled when he opened the door, Long said Martin was in the process of changing his clothing, which could be "perceived in a different way."

Long also said Patterson attempted two weeks ago to contact the student staff who reported the incident through e-mail and clarify what they meant when they described Martin as "clearly drunk." She said she has yet to receive a response from them.

Before ending, Long encouraged the Judicial Committee to take into consideration the character statements and lack of evidence.

After committee deliberation, Warren announced the verdict, stating that while Martin should not have brought people into the office, there was not sufficient evidence to bring charges of misconduct against him.

His formal letter of apology to the student body must be completed by Dec. 14, according to the sanctions.

Martin said he will not be commenting at this time.

Plan works to increase number of students living on-campus

NEIGHBORHOODS from PAGE 1

live on campus, a statistic the university hopes to increase to 75 percent by 2020.

Under the new plan, first-year students will have the option to live in the historic residence halls, the new Colonnades residence halls or the Global Neighborhood. The Danieleley Center neighborhood will be designed for sophomores, while juniors will have the option to live in the Oaks. A new neighborhood specifically designed for seniors will consist of town homes and offer resources to aid seniors with capstone courses, careers and the graduate school process.

The Global Neighborhood, the showcase neighborhood for the university's residential plan, will replace both Harper Center and Story Center next to Lake Mary Nell. A new dining hall, international café and theatre for international film festivals will also be built within the neighborhood.

"The idea is for each neighborhood to have a specific theme that would extend beyond the classroom and into the community, the campus, during evenings and even around food," O'Mara said.

According to O'Mara, the goal is for students to experience opportunities that will not necessarily be found in a course catalog.

"We want students to experience spur of the moment interactions with faculty and staff members,"

O'Mara said. "These experiences are bound to occur in the campus neighborhoods."

The Global Neighborhood will feature both faculty-in-residence and faculty members assigned to each of the four buildings within the neighborhood. Students will also have the opportunity to take global studies courses in selective classrooms and meeting spaces the neighborhood will offer.

"We're really trying to create spaces that will have a lot more dynamic interaction," Stein said. "We wanted to make sure that whatever model was created of the residential campus was connected to the rest of campus."

According to O'Mara, the plan will allow students to better engage themselves and mix as much as possible.

"We want intentional spontaneity to occur," O'Mara said. "The hope is that students interact with different backgrounds and interests. If you create the atmosphere and enhance the culture, it will enhance the entire campus environment."

Gerald Whittington, senior vice president for Business, Finance and Technology, said the plan would allow students to have a premier residential college experience.

"This is not a bricks and mortar plan," Stein said. "It's not a construction plan. It's a transformation plan and a university wide initiative."