

To: Dean Barbara Bergman  
From: George Bach, Chair  
Date: 6/4/2013  
Re: 2012-13 Annual Report of Ad Hoc Venue Improvement Committee

Since well before my tenure as Chair began in June 2012, the Ad Hoc Venue Improvement Committee has worked to improve the Venue Café attached to the forum in the law school. This year, the Committee members included Associate Dean Carol Parker, Assistant Dean Hannah Farrington Parker, Emeriti Peter Winograd, Professor Alfred Mathewson, Senior Operations Manager Krista Allen, 3L Jessica Miles, and 2L Maxie Gallardo.

The committee worked with Tim Backes, the Associate Director Business Operations, Food Services, at the University, and Rudy Simchak, the Resident District Manager of Chartwells, the vendor in the Venue.

Thanks to the work of Associate Dean Parker and others, many physical renovations took place in the Venue this year, including new flooring, booths, painting, lighting, and art. In summer 2012, a large section of forum wall was replaced with sliding glass doors into the café. The Committee focused its efforts this year in attempting to attract and engage potential subcontractors who might take over food service at the Venue. Working with Mr. Backes and Mr. Simchak, a number of potential vendors were explored, including Times Square Deli, Saggio's, etc. These vendors were not interested in the Venue because of the low sales volume.

In the summer and fall of 2012, considerable time was spent working with local caterer Gourmet-To-Go, which had expressed a great deal of interest in subcontracting with Chartwells as the food provider in the Venue. Gourmet-To-Go had a lot of faculty support. However, after months of discussion, Gourmet-To-Go ultimately decided not to pursue the project.

On May 31, 2013, Mr. Simchak presented the Committee with a proposal from Einstein's Bagels, which is submitted herewith. Because Einstein's is establishing a facility on main campus, it is also interested in providing food service at the Venue.

Mr. Backes and Mr. Simchak have agreed to explore changing the proposed five-year commitment to three years. They will also ascertain whether, if approved, Einstein's can begin service by the beginning of the 2013-14 academic year. The hope is to have a decision made on this by June 15, 2013.