

Culinary Advisory Meeting
August 1, 2007
Kabuki Restaurant/Pinetop

Meeting Summary

Attendees: Gilles Desjardins, Barbara Desjardins, Bennie Muncy, Rica Girardi, Sylviana Girardi, Cheryl Girardi, Karalea Kowren, Sharon Steely, Peggy Belknap, Kathy McPherson

Peggy welcomed everyone and got the meeting started by giving an update on the Culinary Task Force meeting held on July 30th at the Show Low campus. The task force consists of Peggy Belknap, Sharon Steely and Sylviana Girardi.

- Peggy stated that there is about 3 months of work to get the curriculum written. Sharon Steely will take the lead on that.
- Any changes agreed to on curriculum need to be given by December
- NAU connection needs to be made.
- The role of NPC is to take care of three areas of specialization; which are:
 1. Marketing
 2. Food and Beverage
 3. Hospitality – Hotel/Restaurant
- Peggy stated that she will be watching the curriculum closely and that it needs to be approved by the curriculum committee before it is presented to the board.

Rica Girardi asked “so we won’t get the stamp of approval until December”? Peggy said “yes-unless the curriculum was written sooner, the board wants to see the final results”.

Sharon Steely talked about the task force meeting on July 31st. She told the group that the curriculum is under a “hospitality blanket” – we aren’t prepared to do the culinary program yet. Gilles stated that there will be a hotel in the plans; he said that they will be doing the curriculum for HRM (Hotel Restaurant Management). Sharon said it is going to take a great deal of time to update the curriculum and that upper division courses will not be done by NPC – we need to align ourselves with NAU.

Gilles Desjardins stated that he would like feedback from the College Board on whether or not the college was on board (with the project) he said that a professional will be involved with the design of the building. He will then go to Barry Ebert with the plan to build in Show Low Bluffs. Peggy stated that we need on paper what Gilles is looking for in approval, she said that there is a lot of work to do before it is presented to the board; she said as far as the board we can request from Dr. Swarthout to be put on the agenda, with details to take to the board.

Peggy asked Gilles “what do you want the board to know, and what commitment do you want from them”? Gilles said the Dr. Sy can be here in September to present to the board; so they would like to do that in September. Peggy stated that they need to let the board know

- What is your expectation for the college
- Are you asking the college for money
- Give the board a chance to do their homework
- Be prepared to answer questions from the board

Gilles stated that he doesn't want money from the college. Peggy said that our part of the curriculum can be done at any of our facilities. Gilles said that they are planning a classroom on the second floor that could be equipped with video conferencing equipment. Peggy told the group that the culinary school needs to make sure that it has adequate bandwidth available; Karalea said they need at least a T3. Peggy said they need to go with as much bandwidth as they can afford; it is very expensive in rural Arizona – it needs to be part of the plan. Barbara asked if students can just take their laptops to the classroom; Peggy said yes, for the online classes. Peggy then explained how the video classes work. Barbara asked Peggy if NPC had connections with U of A or Pima College; Peggy said that we do not.

Peggy told the group that NPC will probably need a campus at Show Low Bluffs to accommodate the people that will be in that area. Peggy stated her concern with having a workforce; and that maybe we should offer 2-day workshops; she said she would like to see a year long calendar for classes like Serve-Safe. Sharon stated that Greer Lodge has a big turnover in employees; they offer Serve-Safe classes quarterly and pay someone to come and teach it to their employees; she is working on becoming certified to teach those classes. She also said that we need to build internships – every business has different needs; we need to offer 1-16 credits for internships. Peggy said to make sure the communication is in place. Gilles said that he can go to the businesses and tell them what classes they are offering.

Rica stated that a lot of people working in restaurants have no experience. Sharon said that Greer Lodge has 112 employees- she said she would not send any of her staff to be trained because they don't know how long they will stay. Gilles stated that you have to take a gamble and a loss- to better your services. Peggy said that if you pay them to go to school- you have to have them commit to stay for at least a year; all employers need to be on the same page and pull together. We need to educate the employers on the training classes.

Gilles told the group that he has done the ground work; done the study, we have the talent and the expertise – everything needs to open at the same time. Peggy said that there is a lot more happening that is not the colleges' role. There has to be compensation to the employee to take the training classes. Barbara stated that the word needs to get out to the community; we are going to draw students from all over – hopefully some of them will stay on the mountain, part of their time will be to work at a restaurant for their hands-on training. Gilles stated that the plan calls for 240

units of housing – for staff; faculty and students. He also stated that he wants to reach the high school students; and that the majority of the recruits will not want the credit; they just want to learn the industry.

Peggy then stated to the group that we all agree that the college knows their role. She then talked about taking it before the board:

- Who is going to take the lead on going to the board? She said someone other than a college employee needs to do it.
- It needs to be approved by Dr. Swarthout and Dr. Henderson before it goes to the board.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 5th from 10-12pm at Kabuki Restaurant in Pinetop. It will be the final meeting before the curriculum goes to the curriculum committee.

Thank you for attending