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| **Objective - 4/10/23 Email from Gabriela Seagade** [**FOOD AND DRINK IN CLASSROOMS POLICY**](C3025.pdf) |
| The Operations Committee is discussing the policy on food in the classroom (see current procedure attached).  Some students rush to the classroom from work or other commitments and bring some food to eat.  Asking them to not eat would mean they have to go hungry for perhaps hours and can't concentrate on the lesson. On the other side, when there's food in the classroom, there's often leftovers or debris.  Custodial Services does not have the bandwidth to clean all classrooms every day, much less several times a day, so faculty are currently responsible ensuring the classroom is clean even if it means cleaning it themselves.We need to get input from faculty and students to revise or reaffirm the policy. Before Friday, May 20th, could you send me a quick message telling us what you would like the policy to be? |
| **Responses** |
| **Stephanie Austin 4/10/24 4:13 PM**Honestly, the students need to be able to eat, and faculty need to speak up about keeping the classroom clean.  Perhaps, put the responsibility on the faculty to leave the classroom clean…..then faculty can individually decide whether they want to ask students to clean up their mess, not let students eat, or clean the room themselves.  That’s what we do in Music.  ☺ |
| **Ellen Coatney 4/10/24 4:30 PM**Hi Gabriela,I think this is a question of what is practical and what is not.For years I was known as the teacher with peanut butter and jelly. My classes are 3 to 4.5 hours long with lab and lecture. I do give a break, but all too often they would take longer than the 10 minutes to go get something to eat. So I started providing food – and made rules about cleaning up.Now I can’t have a grab all food- so I still provide snacks, in the form of packaged granola bars. I let them know they have to clean up after themselves/ throw out their trash. I do a last check as I leave the room. In conversations with my custodian, she has never noticed a problem after my students.I think we have to be realistic about food – they won’t learn if they are focused on how hungry they are. In doing so I’ve taken on the responsibility of making sure that there isn’t a mess when I leave, buy my students are good about it – I treat them like the adults that they are. Ellen  |

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| **Mary Hernandez 4/10/24 5:52 PM**Hello Gabriela,I prefer the policy to remain as is.  My rationale (thoughts from my little window on the world):1. We are working with mostly adult learners, that, as you point out, may be juggling multiple responsibilities, and schedules can be difficult to manage.  The ability to eat in class may be what keeps them in class.
2. The college offers free breakfast and lunch to our students.  This is wonderful and many of our nursing students take advantage of this benefit, but it takes so long for them to stand in line and get their meal, that they have to come back and eat in class in order for us to adhere to our schedules.  I am very clear about them cleaning up after themselves, and I monitor this as well.  It has not been an issue for our area, at least not that has been brought to our attention.
3. The decision-making regarding this should rest with the faculty instructor. They know (or should at least have an idea of) the needs of their students given the course start/stop times and other restraints.  If the faculty feel it is reasonable to allow the students to eat in class, there is probably good reason for it.  Perhaps a short in-service should be required for all faculty, so that they recognize the importance of this concern—including adjunct faculty—they may have no idea of this issue.​
4. Faculty members that feel this is reasonable can hold these adult learners responsible for cleaning up after themselves—even children can learn to be responsible for keeping their areas clean​.  It doesn't seem difficult, as long as everyone adheres to the policy.
5. We had our students cleaning every surface possible when Covid was in full swing—we can hold appropriate expectations for this as well.
6. The current policy lists consequences for when the policy is not adhered to.  is anyone enforcing these consequences when they are not adhered to? Administration must be willing to back up the use of these consequences when the policy is not followed.

Again, just my thoughts, given my little window on the world.Thank you for seeking faculty input on this... |

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| **Jennifer Ounjian 4/10/24 7:17 PM**The policy should be:“At the time the college actually provides FOOD on campus in the vacant cafeteria and NOT pre-packaged sandwiches that do not expire for months this policy will remain inactive.  Until then, please encourage students to bring as much food as they want and the college will pay/hire custodial or student workers to pick up the cleaning slack. In addition, we will invite locally owned food trucks and community-based food vendors to sell culturally relevant foods on campus and we will pay for the permits.” How dare we try to enforce a punitive policy when we cannot even offer basic healthy food services throughout the entire time management wants courses to be held.  The audacity… |
| **Lucille (Cile) Beatty 4/11/24 10:00 AM**Hi Gabriela, I think it is critical to allow food.  Students who are hunger don't do well and can't concentrate.   I believe allowing food in the classroom does support a learning environment that is focused on equity.  In automotive we have larger trash cans than most classrooms.  If the department or a class have food - the faculty have the students help clean up and move trash to the dumpster too.   Currently all are considered responsible for recycling.  I if faculty allow students to eat they are responsible for ensuring the students clean up after themselves and perhaps can move the trash to on outside trash can that are larger. Thanks |
| **Sepehr Nesaei**I just wanted to share my views regarding the food policy. I think it should be okay to let the students have food in class, however we need to remind them to be mindful of what bring into the classroom as some might be sensitive to the food smell. Cheers,Peter (Sepehr) |
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