

Problem Set #2

Should MacGregor Dining Be Re-Opened?

You are a member of the “Students for Better Dining at MIT” committee. You have been asked by President Hockfield and Director of Campus Dining, Richard Berlin, to make a recommendation as to whether or not the MacGregor Dining Hall should be re-opened. An experiment took place in spring semester '08 to offer students a dinner buffet at MacGregor, and based on that experiment, a decision will be made whether or not to open the dining hall permanently.

You and your committee have studied the data gathered from the experiment,* as well as other data Campus Dining has provided you about MIT students' eating habits.† These data are included as *tables* on the next two pages.

Your Task

Write a short memo (not more than two paragraphs) to President Hockfield and Richard Berlin with your recommendation for MacGregor dining. Base your recommendation on the data! In other words, look closely at attached tables to determine whether MacGregor should be reopened, should not be reopened, the experiment should be extended, etc. Include with the text two *charts* illustrating the data that best support your recommendation.

*Thanks to 15.279 fall '07 student team for some of the data related to MacGregor dining.

† Some data created expressly for this exercise.

Data Related to MacGregor Dining

A. Students' Rating of the Buffet

5 = Excellent 0 = Terrible

Score	# of Responses
0	1
1	7
2	4
3	16
4	6
5	7

n = 41

B. How Often Which Foods Were Eaten on the Buffet During One Dinner

Food	Times Taken
Meat	15
Carbs	27
Vegetables	8
Salads	31
Desserts	24

C: Whether Residents Would Eat Regularly at MacGregor Dining: Segmented by Gender

Gender	Yes	No
Male	21	4
Female	13	7

D: Number of Students Eating at MacGregor Dining During the Week

Day	Number
Sunday	7
Monday	17
Tuesday	19
Wednesday	23
Thursday	17
Friday	12
Saturday	5

E: Number of Customers at Each MIT Dining Hall per Week

Dining Hall	Average # of Customers per Week
McCormick	115
Baker	255
MacGregor	100
Next	255
Simmons	180

**F. How Much MIT Students Spend on Food Each Week (Outside of the Meal Plan)
Segmented by Year and Gender**

Year/Gender	Amount
Senior	
Male	\$32
Female	\$30
Junior	
Male	\$28
Female	\$22
Sophomore	
Male	\$29
Female	\$30
Freshman	
Male	\$30
Female	\$25

G. Average Length of Time Spent Eating in the Dining Hall

Day	Time
Sunday	20 minutes
Monday	21 minutes
Tuesday	19 minutes
Wednesday	20 minutes
Thursday	17 minutes
Friday	15 minutes
Saturday	15 minutes

H. Number of People Sitting at Each Table (Low-High Range)

Day	Number
Sunday	3-8
Monday	5-8
Tuesday	4-10
Wednesday	2-10
Thursday	7-12
Friday	5-10
Saturday	6-8

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