

Hello folks,

First of all thanks for taking time out of your busy lives to attend today's meeting with the president of our university, Dr. Jay Gogue.

The main things Dr. Gogue promised to take care of for us were:

- 1) To let us present the fair trade coffee issue to the Food Service Advisory Committee meeting.
- 2) To see that the University and Aramark follow through on the Fair Trade Fridays event that they committed to last April starting in the spring 2007 semester. (we'll ask that it take place on Wed. or Thursday because Fridays are the least populated day on our campus)

Dr. Gogue said that he would contact Dr. John Rudley who is the Vice Chancellor and the vice president of finance to arrange those things.

Dr. Gogue also said that the way to approach our issue was to get the Student Government (SGA) the Faculty Senate and the Staff Council to pass a resolution and then he would sign it which would make it official policy. Most importantly Dr. Gogue said that we don't need all three governing bodies to pass resolutions in order for him to take action. He predicted that the SGA would probably pass our resolution probably since most of us in the meeting were students.

Dr. Gogue also said he would speak to Jim Anderson about meeting with Mr. Johnson and his Community Involvement Group. Mr. Johnson and I and many African American community members had two meetings this past summer with Dean Antel concerning the African American Studies program. That is a separate issue from fair trade but I just wanted to let you know what we were referring to in today's meeting. Also I wanted to inform everyone that Jim Anderson, (the executive associate to Dr. Gogue) called Mr. Johnson this afternoon shortly after our meeting. This shows that Dr. Gogue kept his word on one issue that came up today.

Our next step will be to schedule the Students for Fair Trade meetings for the spring semester. When I hear back from our officers we will finalize that schedule as well as our informational tabling times for the spring semester. On our agenda for the first meeting will be our fair trade open house. Te House of Tea and Java City were the vendors at our November open house. We should have rest of the city fair trade vendors at our spring event as the November event was organized on a short timetable.

Another important thing to note about today's meeting was the attendance of two fair trade businesses, Avi Katz of Katz Coffee and Kevin Lacobie of Te House of Tea. Thanks to both of them for coming and supporting our campaign. As you heard today and it is important to note that Mr. Katz is a U of H graduate. Alumni are another constituency that Dr. Gogue must answer to and satisfy. So again thanks to Mr. Katz for attending.

I don't know about all you but I'm feeling empowered. I'm guessing that not too many students get almost an hour of our president's time. Especially considering that we have 36,000 students on our campus. Thanks to all the hard work you have done in order for this to happen.

I think Manisha summed it up best afterwards when she said "It's going to be a fun semester." I'm looking forward to working with all of you next semester. Let's see if we can all try to bring one person to our first meeting of the semester. I'll send an email once the meeting time and place is set.

We have a lot to be thankful for as we get ready to celebrate the holidays.

Also for those of you that aren't aware of it, the national group we are affiliated with, United Students for Fair Trade has their national convergence coming up. It is will be held in Boston this year on Feb. 16-19. (See [usft.org](http://usft.org) for details) I've put in a funding request to the Student Activities Board back in November but we won't hear until the first week or two of the semester. I've asked for our full allotment of travel reimbursement of \$1,000. As soon as I hear back I'll let you know how much we get. The way it works is that we would have to pay for our plane tickets and then they reimburse us. The only rule is they don't pay for anyone that has a year or less until they graduate. If we get the whole \$1,000 that should be enough for about 4 plane tickets. The conference itself only costs \$85 and that includes lodging!!! It's gonna be a blast. We'll be able to meet students, producers and vendors from all across the country and the world.

Please feel free to share this email and the news of our meeting with your friends.

Thanks again for all your hard work and enjoy the holidays.