

The University Life

Kyung Hee University English Newspaper

Founded in 1958, The University Life is a nonprofit English newspaper of Kyung Hee University. Dedicated to the globalization of the university, the newspaper aims to impartially review the achievements and the problems of the administration, the faculty and the student body of Kyung Hee University. As an English medium, the newspaper also aims to provide international students with information and insights into the culture of Korea.

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The newspaper is published four times a year during the semesters. The newspaper has been registered as the periodical by the Ministry of Culture & Information since July 1, 1974.

The Nearsighted Committee: Only Sees What's Right in Front

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The Student Center Cafeteria Management Committee (SCCMC) was created to oversee cafeteria operations, addressing hygiene problems caused by the former meal provider, Riaeni La Matinee. The committee holds monthly meetings to share operational results and feedback with its members, including representatives from various groups in Kyung Hee University (KHU). The committee succeeded in its initial goal—removing the vendor after their repeated issues. However, the committee now seems to have lost its value by being stuck in the past.

The cafeteria is currently managed by the KHU Cooperatives, a nonprofit group whose primary purpose is reinvesting profits back into the community. It has served on the Seoul Campus for two decades and now provides 40 services on the campus, demonstrating that it can effectively work with the University to expand and stabilize in-campus welfare service. Therefore, Global Campus now

has an opportunity to further improve its welfare system.

Despite the changing realities, the SCCMC remains stuck in the past. The committee obsesses over minor flaws, such as undercooked rice or inattentive student workers, just as it did for Riaeni La Matinee. When it is faced with forward-looking discussions—like how profits could benefit students or how the Cooperatives's services could expand—the members remain silent.

Judging by its behavior, the committee seems more intent on asserting control over other groups than on delivering genuine benefits to the KHU community. For example, a member claimed to be concerned about student workers, raising issues such as excessive workload and the risk of musculoskeletal disorders. In reality, however, these workers perform only simple tasks, like wiping desks. This makes it clear that the committee has little understanding of the

actual situation on site. Rather than focusing on what truly benefits students, it appears more interested in restricting the KHU Cooperatives.

The foundation of the problem lies in the meeting atmosphere. It is as if there is an unspoken rule that at least one flaw must be pointed out in every session. No matter how the KHU Cooperatives showed new services or business surpluses, the committee became paralyzed by its fixation on finding something to blame.

At this point, distrusting the KHU Cooperatives is enough. Before it moved into Global Campus, the General Affair Team contacted Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Global Campus Cooperatives to run the Student Center cafeterias. Turning away from the KHU Cooperatives and seeking outside groups to manage campus facilities already reveals its reluctance. Yet, this refusal to work with KHU Cooperatives needs to stop at this point. As KHU Co-

operatives begin their operations, continuing to restrict the KHU Cooperatives who already began the service will only result in outdated welfare services.

To enhance the quality and quantity of campus welfare services, the SCCMC must change their approach. As the only official meeting for the KHU Cooperatives's operation on Global Campus, it needs to discuss the long-term vision. If the committee continues merely complaining about a speck of dust on tables like now, the Global Campus will never improve its welfare services. Get out of the excuses and communicate with the students honestly. This is the next step the administration must take.

Now is the Global Campus's last chance to bring about positive change. President Kim Jin-sang, who has supported the KHU Cooperatives in contributing to campus welfare services, serves only for a limited term. Likewise, the KHU Cooperatives has a five-year operating mandate. This means the present moment is the right time for stakeholders to pursue improvements in welfare services in collaboration with the KHU Cooperatives. If this opportunity is missed, no one can be sure when such opportunity will resurface. The chance is here—seize it, and return its benefits to the KHU community.

Despite the changing realities, the SCCMC remains stuck in the past: they obsesses over minor flaws

No Transparency, No Trust: The Dormitory's Ongoing Silence

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The 2nd Dormitory has entered a new phase: Riaeni La Matinee, the controversial meal provider, has been replaced. This appears to be a positive outcome, eliminating potential health risks for students. However, there remains a disappointing aspect to this decision: The 2nd Dormitory administration never communicated transparently with students, as they had done before.

Throughout Riaeni La Matinee's two-year tenure, Kyung Hee University (KHU) students received no detailed information about the company's operations. The Global Campus General Student Association (GSA) repeatedly requested to participate in cafeteria-related meetings with the 2nd Dormitory but was denied each time. The justification? "Dormitory affairs should be managed by the dormitory office."

As a result, students remain unaware of internal cafeteria matters, even the rationale and process behind the company's eventual removal. This means, for two years, the dormitory did not communicate with students about the ways to deal with who posed the safety and health risks to the students.

The dormitory's approach particularly stands out when compared with the Global Campus General Affair Team (GAT). While facing similar issues to the 2nd Dormitory, where Riaeni La Matinee repeatedly caused hygiene and taste problems in Student Center cafeterias, the GAT addressed these concerns through student engagement. They invited student media to relevant meetings, providing access to information about cafeteria plans, current

problems, budget status, university stakeholders' intentions, and other related matters. This allowed KHU students to receive consistent updates regarding the cafeteria issues. Students could also influence decisions as the GSA representatives served as committee members. Like GAT, facing reality and collectively drawing

solutions is the way to resolve long-term issues, not just hide from them. What makes the dormitory office's position even more frustrating is that the cafeteria incident is not the first time they have evaded responsibility. When students expressed outrage over the sudden decision to host a student bonding event at Everland amusement park, the administration provided no explanation. Instead, they sheltered behind dormitory student

workers, who became targets of public criticism—despite not being the decision makers. Later, when laundry fees suddenly increased, administrators instructed student workers to praise the new functions accompanying the price hikes, rather than explaining the reasons for the increases.

The dormitory administration has reportedly expressed resentment toward student media, claiming that interviews only include a fraction of their statements. They allege that media sometimes distort facts to support predetermined narratives. However, given their attitude, these claims are just an excuse to avoid facing students honestly. They never deserve to cast such blame until they openly address dormitory affairs.

The dormitory cafeteria affair is an issue that needs to be discussed with the KHU community. Before Riaeni La Matinee, conglomerates like Samsung and Hanwha failed to reach full satisfaction. This means that a single group never meets the students' satisfaction. Thus, if the dormitory does not change its secretive approach, student dissatisfaction will persist and serious issues, including those affecting health, can return.

Get out of the excuses and communicate with the students honestly. This is the next step the administration must take.