

Brigham Young University - College of Life Sciences

University Meals and Hosting – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Contact:

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1. In the Meals and Hosting Policy first paragraph, stated below, what is meant by the term “necessary”?

“University funds may be used for business meals when a meal is necessary to conduct university business. Meals that include students should have the dean or director’s (or their delegate’s) approval.”

- ❖ **Answer:** “Necessary” means that without the meal, university business could not have been reasonably carried out. Adequate documentation is to be provided. (Source: Dean’s email clarification-September 2015)

2. In the Meals and Hosting Policy first paragraph, stated above, what is meant by the term “dean or director’s approval”?

- ❖ **Answer:** Meals (non-snacks) which include students that are not in “Travel” status are to be pre-approved by the Dean prior to the meal being served. This request is to be submitted via email to the Dean and is to include the following 5 points:
- 1) A description of the business purpose, listing the reasons why it is important to feed the student(s).
 - 2) Estimated # of students that will participate in the meal.
 - 3) Indicate when the meal(s) will be served.
 - 4) Anticipated vendor of who will be providing the meal and what will be served.
 - 5) Estimated total cost of the meal.

The Dean’s confirmation email in response will indicate the written pre-approval and is to be attached with the documentation receipts when completing the expense claim for the student meals.

For students that are in “Travel” status, refer to the University Student Travel Policy.

Snacks are interpreted as candy, cookies, fruit, donuts, soda, juice, etc.

(Source: Dean’s email clarification-September 2015)

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3. In the Meals and Hosting Policy third paragraph, stated below, what is meant by the term “an annual dinner”?

“The university provides an annual dinner for full-time and non-student part-time personnel, retirees, spouses of deceased personnel, and a guest for each person invited. Guidelines for the annual dinner are found in the implementing procedures.”

- ❖ **Answer:** The words “an annual dinner” were clarified by the Academic Vice President (AVP), in that it is appropriate for the College and for a Department to each hold (1) annual dinner in the same calendar year. It is not appropriate for a department to hold more than (1) annual dinner in the same calendar year. (Source-AVP email September 2015)

4. In the Meals and Hosting Policy the Implementing Procedures final paragraph entitled Annual Employee Dinner, stated below, what is meant by the term “planned attendee”?:

“The current allowable rate for the approved annual employee dinner is \$20.50 for 2017 and \$20.75 for 2018, per planned attendee including meals, decorations, entertainment, etc. Any excess must be paid by the individual participants.”

- ❖ **Answer:** The term “planned attendee” is calculated by the number of guests that are specifically invited and not just the ones that have returned an R.S.V.P. back. (Source: Kevin Walker-Regulatory Accounting September 2015)

5. When planning for a club activity where a non-snack meal is served, is it permissible for club funds to be used to pay for the cost of a meal for students and faculty mentor(s) plus 1 guest (family member, friend, etc.)?

- ❖ **Answer:** For clubs, the Dean will evaluate and consider authorizing, on an infrequent basis, using club funds to feed the plus 1 family members or guests. (Source: Dean email January 2019)

6. When planning for a department graduate student recognition dinner, graduate student retreat or similar event where a non-snack meal is served, is it permissible for university funds to be used to pay for the meal of the students and faculty mentor(s) plus 1 guest (family member, friend, etc.)?

- ❖ **Answer:** For consistency purposes, the Dean will not authorize feeding the plus 1 guest for socially-oriented functions. The plus 1 guests are welcomed to make arrangements to personally pay the costs of their own meal. (Source: Dean email March 2019)