

Motion For Extending Miller Library Hours of Operation

Purpose:

Although the 2020-21 academic year presents a set of new challenges primarily because of COVID-19, it is important to maintain the college's essential resources. Aside from being a hub for research, printing and numerous academic resources, many students use Miller Library as their central studying location. However, this year, the library has had its hours shifted and reduced substantially. Although initially understandable, as students have gotten further in the semester, the need and necessity for the resources of Miller Library have become more dire. This motion aims at expanding library hours to help students. If passed, the essential college resource (Miller Library) would be open and accessible in a more appropriate manner.

The What:

This motion, if passed, would propose to the administration that they seriously consider altering the hours of operation of Miller Library. Currently, Miller Library is open for a fraction of the time compared with last year. Furthermore, the library opens at 10 am on weekdays and 2 pm on Sunday. These hours make it incredibly difficult for students to print, study and access valuable resources. This motion would revert Miller Library hours of operation to last year's hours - opening at 6 am and closing at 1 am each day.

The How:

- Talking to librarians and the staff in the library on how they could extend the hours
- Training students on cleaning and Covid protocols so that they can get their jobs back and help with staffing hours
- Talking to senior staff about how this can happen and what things need change or be done in order for this to be attainable.
 - Reaching out specifically to Margaret McFadden and to Russ Johnson about how to move forward in this process

Strengths and Importance:

- Students need more working printers on campus for their school work

- Students are spending more time in their rooms now than ever and need to separate studying and relaxation and there are not many other quiet study spaces on campus that are as conducive to studying, group work, etc.
- Access to computers for students who may not have their own devices
- Students need to be able to work with librarians and the writing center and right now, the hours could very well keep students from getting this done if they are busy during the limited hours
- Students often use the library as an area to meet for group work and with the hours compromised it makes it much harder to find time to work together
- The campus has been very successful with Covid prevention so far and we do not think these extended hours would not pose a threat to that progress

Possible Risk Areas:

- There are necessary reasons (due to Covid) that are keeping the hours limited
- There might not be enough staff if students are not able to work there
- Worry about spread of germs and virus
 - However, the low case rate on campus should prove as a counter argument for this since students are gathering in spa and dining halls

Intuition and Questions Already Addressed:

- Why are the hours the way they are now?
- Can students get their jobs back now?
 - Especially if they can get extra training on cleaning protocols

Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students Consulted:

We have consulted members from each grade on SGA. This means that the motion would garner broad support.

Contact Information for questioning, clarification, or pre-meeting critiques:

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