

10-2009

Student Advisory Committee Minutes B Term 2009

George C. Gordon Library

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Student Library Advisory Committee - October 2009 Input & Updates

Christine Drew met with all five students on the advisory committee. Feedback reported below.

1. Let us know your thoughts on the renovations so far. See details, [photo slide show and some plans](#) on the web site.
 - All of the Student Advisors were well aware and pleased with the process the library has made so far with renovations.
 - “No complaints.” “Good help from desk”
 - Most use the library both for private student AND for group meetings.
 - One suggested we put more signage around 1st floor for quiet personal study. Another mentioned that even snack packages can be distracting and wishes there were a space with no interruptions.
 - One student mentioned that the international house has a coffee area, if we don’t get a full café, maybe we can have an area with coffee, tea, cocoa and collect 25 cents per cup. We should at least have a machine for coffee that people can pay for it, but the students do like the idea of a café and a few feel it would be viable from a business standpoint. Esp. in the winter, one felt the convenience of having it right in the library would attract customers.
 - More tech suites would be useful.
2. We are working with the architect to design Phase III of the library renovation. Christine shared the Concept Plans for the help desk and south side of the main entrance level and asked for input on the computer layout and for suggestions on locations throughout the building students would like to see computers add (since 28 will be moved from the Help Desk ADP lab).
 - Students in general liked idea of having kiosks for quick access near main entrance
 - One student commented: “When I walk in it makes me feel good... if there are too many computers there that may make me feel stressed.” She likes that the area on the main entrance level is available to “study, relax, talk, have discussion.” She feels it’s “more human” than having more computers. She also prefers to use her own laptop because it’s “customized” and wonders if we have collected data/research on our students as to whether they wish to have more computers in the library or not.
 - Another graduate student mentioned he used the individual study carrels along the back of the 3rd floor a lot and likes that area being tech free. The small rooms on the 3rd floor can be useful for teams.
 - One suggested we add more individual computers in lounge area on 1st floor just outside elevator and that we keep the area on the main entrance for groups. He like the group areas pictured in the concept drawings.

- One felt it was hard to determine whether students want more group or more individual space, but there's a need for both and we should use data we are collecting on usage to help make those decisions.
 - A student commented that the area just outside the stairs/elevator on the 3rd floor could have more comfortable seating.
3. Any general comments or ideas you have for the library?
- In general, students are very happy with the library and mention they feel comfortable giving us feedback. One mentioned the question students had about making an entry on the ground floor but understands the difficulties in making this happen. Also, he mentioned the constraints with the café idea and that this was already brought up at a senators meeting.
 - All mentioned they could help get the word out about the MISO survey and scare fest. A few ideas for getting the word out:
 1. Promote on little flyers or biz cards at Morgan and other dining areas, in addition to the library
 2. Promote within academic digest email
 3. Talk with Lauren Ketschke, she's the incoming PR chair and may be able to help
 4. myWPI polls: talk with Melissa Castle she's on the Student Life Committee and can post a short multiple choice poll with up to 2 questions at a time
 - One mentioned she'd like to see more crayons, coloring books in the tech suites or games areas for students to use for stress relief. Also that tech suites are very dull and need some information posters with things like: "writing tips," or motivational posters. She felt pictures of project center sites or posters of student's work would make them more interesting as well.

A few Library updates which we shared with the students:

- We held **two student focus groups in September 2009** to gain input on the library renovations, many suggestions have been incorporated into the architect's plans.
- [New Library Catalog](#) interface implemented August 2009
- **Scare Fest 2009, library/IT vendor fair** will be held 10/30/2009, please let people know & see [web site](#) for details.
- **Resource Trials: Gale's GREENR database** until 10/16; [Springer eBook Trial, Fall 2009](#) includes 30,000 ebooks, let us know what you think.
- **Coming Soon:**
 1. ILLiad, upgraded interlibrary loan system but will be fairly seamless to users.
 2. MISO Survey (misosurvey.org) – we'll need help promoting it
 The MISO Survey is a web-based quantitative survey designed to measure how faculty, students, and staff view library and computing services in higher education.
 The MISO Survey addresses the following research questions:
 - What services and resources are important to our constituents, and how successfully do our organizations deliver them?
 - How effectively do we communicate with our campus communities about our services and resources?
 - How skilled are our constituents in the use of software and library databases? What additional skills do they wish to learn, and how do they wish to learn?

- Which software and hardware tools do our constituents use, and which of these tools do they own?
- What roles do our constituents play on campus? What demographic factors identify them?
- What benchmarks can be established for excellent delivery of library and computing services?

10/20/2009