

2-9-2009

Student Advisory Committee Minutes C Term 2009

George C. Gordon Library

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Library Student Advisory Committee

February 9, 2009 – 4:00-5:30 pm

Gordon Conference Room, Gordon Library

MINUTES

1. Tour of Archives & Special Collections (from 4:00 – 4:30)

Rodney Obien, Curator of Archives and Special Collections, displayed historical WPI documents, rare books, and items from both the Theo Brown Diaries and Charles Dickens' collections for the students.

2. Updates on library activities

National Library Week is coming and assistance with activity planning from students is welcome. The theme this year is "World's Connect @ your Library." More information can be found on line at <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm>

Anderson Labs A & B can now be reserved via the Microsoft Outlook Calendar.

Free coffee, which is available at the information desk Sunday through Thursday, is fairly popular with students. Library staff will investigate relocating the dispensers to other areas to see if usage increases.

3. General discussion on library renovation

Quiet vs. group spaces and collaborative vs. individual spaces are issues to address in the upcoming renovation and student feedback is important. The possibility of setting up focus groups to discuss questions, such as, "How do you work?" and "When do you use the building and why?" was discussed.

4. Questions/feedback

Print vs. electronic books: In an effort to increase the usage, students agreed to partner with library staff on future promotional events.

Collection strength: The collection is strong; however, it was requested that staff investigate additional purchases in case studies and other entrepreneurial titles. There are departments on campus that have small internal "libraries," and library staff are reaching out to ensure the collection meets their needs.

Hours: Graduate students wanted to know if hours could be adjusted to better fit graduate schedules. An ongoing library usage study will be examined for patterns, and decisions will be made based on findings.

Conference Calling: Students would like to use the Tech Suites for conference calling. If you are interested in learning more about Wimba, WPI's new web conferencing software, for use in the Tech. Suites or otherwise, please contact connect@wpi.edu

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Hall

Associate Director of Library Services