Title: A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE LIBRARY STUDY ROOM RESERVATION HOURS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

Short Title: Increasing Reservation Hours for Downtown Library Study Rooms
Primary Sponsor: Stephanie Buggs, College Senator (Eberly)
Secondary Sponsor(s):
- Travis Rawson, President Pro Tempore
- Amelia Jones, Senator
- Camryn Pressley, Senator
- Marley Nash, College Senator (Eberly)
- Tafari Graham, Athletic Senator
- Noah Collie, Senator
- Myya Helm, Senator
- Khufu Edwards, Senator

First Reading Date: 11-20-2019
Second Reading Date: 12-04-2019

Whereas, the Mission Statement of West Virginia University advances education and prosperity for all by providing access and opportunity; and

Whereas, the Mission of the WVU Libraries is to provide access to information that enables learning and the advancement of knowledge as an active partner in WVU’s high-quality education; and

Whereas, the Vision of the WVU Libraries is to strive for consistently high standards to ensure quality education and service, create and maintain inspiring physical environments, and foster an inclusive, welcoming environment; and

Whereas, the current policy for reserving study rooms in the WVU Downtown Library is that users may reserve up to 3 hours in every 7-day period, users may not make more than 3 reservations in any 7 day period, and rooms may be reserved for up to 3 hours at one time; and

Whereas, according to the West Virginia University Downtown Library, the total number of room reservations for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was 23,457 and the total occupancy was 506,880; and

Whereas, according to the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL), for every full-time college student, they visit the library around 55 times each academic year; and

Whereas, according to the College & Research Libraries (CRL), out of 5,368 first year students, 4,415 of them used any library resource; and

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Whereas, other Research Institutions & Universities such as University of Kansas (2 hours a day)\(^3\), Oklahoma State University (4 hours at a time)\(^4\), and University of Arizona (4 hours at a time for a total of 24 hours a week)\(^5\) allow more time for students to utilize library study rooms; and

Whereas, evidence states that students are more engaged with learning as a whole if they are engaged with library resources, their staff, and spend time using libraries and that students who report using library resources are less likely to consider leaving the university before degree completion\(^6\); and

Whereas, according to The Association of American Colleges and Universities, college students should spend two hours studying for every hour they spend in their courses; and\(^7\)

Whereas, according to a study by Gensler Research, students identified their top qualities in a library to consist of space to completely focus, individual work, and quiet space for students\(^8\); and

Whereas, according to a survey conducted by Student Government Association, 83% of surveyed West Virginia University students agree that the library room reservation hours are not sufficient and suggest that the hours are increased by 2-5 hours\(^9\);

Whereas, abiding by West Virginia University and West Virginia University Libraries mission statements to foster intellectual growth and provide physical environments for students to learn, providing the additional hours will increase student engagement, degree completion, utilization of library resources, and overall success of the student body.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University that:

Section 1: Recommends the West Virginia University Downtown Library increases the hours of their study room reservations from 3 hours in every 7-day period to 5 hours in every 7 day period to ensure that students have the best opportunity to succeed in and out of the classroom.

Section 2: Upon its passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

- G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students
- Sabrina Cave, Executive Director, Student Enrichment
- Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)
- Daily Athenaeum
- Kate Dye, Student Body President
- West Virginia University Libraries
- Denis Scott, Faculty Senate Library Chair

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3 [https://calendar.lib.ku.edu/booking/anschutz](https://calendar.lib.ku.edu/booking/anschutz)
4 [http://okstate.libcal.com/booking/study-rooms](http://okstate.libcal.com/booking/study-rooms)
5 [https://new.library.arizona.edu/visit/spaces/quiet-study-rooms](https://new.library.arizona.edu/visit/spaces/quiet-study-rooms)
6 [https://www.acer.org/files/AUSSE_EG_Librarians.pdf](https://www.acer.org/files/AUSSE_EG_Librarians.pdf)
8 [https://www.gensler.com/research-insight/gensler-research-institute/students-on-libraries](https://www.gensler.com/research-insight/gensler-research-institute/students-on-libraries)
9 [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_xuoADlsCi6ztPAt2FkuZzkYGb nú3-Z2zJbi15hI47o/edit#responses](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_xuoADlsCi6ztPAt2FkuZzkYGb nú3-Z2zJbi15hI47o/edit#responses)