

The ad hoc committee was responsible for gathering student input on the future of Rod Library and to make recommendations on which changes should be considered for implementation. During the course of our work, we:

- Discussed the input that was given during the Rod Library staff and faculty discussions held in March of 2006.
- Held two student focus groups to further shape the questions to be included on the student survey.
- Created and conducted a student survey. The survey was conducted online using Zoomerang. A paper version of the survey was also offered.
- Advertised the survey through My UNiVerse, UNI Online, the Rod Library home page, the display in the lobby of Rod Library, and through MySpace and Facebook.

While it is important to note that the results of the survey are not a statistically accurate reflection of student opinions, we believe they provide valuable insights. Highlights from survey responses include:

- A total of 368 responses were received, ranging from freshmen to doctoral students. Over a third of the responses were from seniors.
- The top four reasons respondents come to Rod Library are research (74%), studying alone (64%), studying in a group (43%), and using the computer lab (36%).
- 65% of respondents indicated that they come to Rod Library either every day or a few times a week.
- The top two Rod Library services used this semester were Circulation (65%) and Reference (68%), followed by use of the Multi-Service Center (39%) and Special Services (25%).
- Approximately 60% of respondents said they are more likely to access Rod Library's electronic resources and databases from outside the library than from within the library.
- The large majority of respondents indicated that the two best ways to communicate with them is through personal e-mail or My UNiVerse.
- The most popular options of those suggested to encourage more student use of Rod Library were to open a coffee shop (57%), offer more popular books, music and movies (52%), provide more software on the library computers (40%), and to put in new furniture (27%).
- 80% of respondents expressed a preference for full-text access to electronic resources and databases while 20% preferred print resources.
- Respondents were divided on whether or not the Browsing Room should be used for more current popular magazines and newspapers (51% versus 49%).
- 80% of respondents indicated they were Caucasian, 18% indicated they were non-traditional students, and smaller percentages indicated other ethnic or campus affiliations.
- 33% of respondents provided us with additional comments and suggestions on ways to encourage more student use of Rod Library.

After reviewing the results of the survey, we make the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. Enhance computer resources by increasing and upgrading the equipment (e.g. computers, scanners, printers, and color printers/copiers), incorporating less restrictive controls and policies on the library computers (e.g. allow use of flash drives and CD-ROMs), and providing access to software such as Word.
2. Increase the number and technological capabilities of group study rooms as well as soundproofing more group study rooms
3. Establish good, reliable wireless access throughout the entire library building with unrestricted access to the Internet
4. Enhance usage of existing library resources and services through easier and more transparent access along with additional training and educational opportunities.
5. Promote Rod Library resources and services vigorously through university-wide marketing efforts including My UNiVerse, personal e-mail, and newer avenues such as MySpace and Facebook. In addition, pursue direct interpersonal outreach efforts through visits outside the library to dormitories, instructional settings, and with student groups.
6. Designate the fourth floor of Rod Library as an official quiet floor for those students who want to study in a quiet atmosphere.
7. Investigate the possibility of requiring all incoming freshmen and transfer students to participate in some sort of library orientation program.
8. Initiate further study on the issue of opening a coffee shop in the library. There are a number of economic, logistical, and organizational issues beyond the scope of our study that would need to be considered before such a decision could be made.
9. Develop and maintain a limited selection of popular materials. While it is not the primary mission of Rod Library, we feel it would be beneficial to provide some current popular books, movies and music.
10. Provide access to the full survey results and recommendations for the entire Rod Library community.
11. Publish an “executive summary” of the survey results, recommendations, and resulting actions in order to provide feedback to the student population to demonstrate that their input was heard and taken seriously.
12. Conduct a similar study including a student survey every three to four years in order to gather input over time as conditions, students, and matters of interests change and evolve.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you early next semester to discuss our findings and recommendations and answer any questions you may have for us. Enclosed is a complete copy of the survey results and comments for your review.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Gould (Chair), Thomas Kessler, and Keith Welch
Ad Hoc Committee to Gather Student Input on the Future of Rod Library

December 15, 2006