

ACADEMICS COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION 1

The Student Government Association has sought during the past several years to have the College's library hours accurately represent students' academic needs and afford students a better academic environment in which to learn. The McGill and Mack Science libraries are vital centers of scholarly resources for all students and necessary for access to journal publications, books, archival records, reference books, and computer resources.

Whereas "The mission of Westminster College is to help men and women develop competencies, commitments, and characteristics which have distinguished human beings at their best. The liberal arts tradition is the foundation of the curriculum continually designed to serve this mission in a rapidly changing world."

Whereas it is the duty of Westminster College to provide the necessary academic environment for superior liberal arts education, learning, and scholarship

Whereas students have requested and shown a desire for extended library hours, as evidenced by the results of an SGA sponsored academic survey

Whereas many comparison schools surpass our library hours of operation (see Appendix A)

Whereas over half the students who completed the SGA survey indicated that they will "often" or "very often" use the proposed extended McGill library hours (see Appendix B)

Whereas the libraries have resources that students can use only while in the confines of the building

Whereas a quiet place to study is critical for student success and McGill and Mack Science libraries provide the optimal environment, thereby transcending a "Study Hall"

Whereas it is important for the library hours at McGill and Mack Science libraries to be consistent

Whereas Mack Science library must be recognized as an integral academic resource on campus serving not only science majors, but all students, as every student is required to take a Scientific Discovery Intellectual Perspectives course

Whereas 70% of student survey respondents indicated that they will "Sometimes," "often," or "very often" use the proposed extended Mack Science library hours

Whereas students have indicated the use of the libraries' resources if hours are extended

Therefore, the Student Government Association of Westminster College unanimously resolves on this day Wednesday April 8, 2009 that the operating hours of McGill Library be increased by one hour on Sundays so that it would close at 12 a.m. rather than at its current closing hour of 11 p.m. Moreover, the Student Government Association resolves that the operating hours of Mack Science Library be extended by one hour, to close at 12 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, rather than at its current closing hour of 11 p.m. on those days. To this end, the changes would add one (1) hour per week to the McGill Library operating hours and five (5) hours per week to the Mack Science Library operating hours, for a total increase of six (6) hours per week.

Appendix A

A Study of Library Hours at Comparison Institutions Schools:

Current Westminster College

McGill Library

Mon.-Thurs. 8:00am – 12:00am

Fri. 8:00am – 9:00pm

Sat. 9:00am – 8:00pm

Sun. 1:00pm – 11:00pm

Total Hours: 98 hours/week

Mack Science Library

Mon.-Thurs. 8:00am – 11:00pm

Fri. 8:00am – 9:00

Sat. 9:00am – 5:00pm

Sun. 1:00pm – 11:00pm

1. Allegheny College

Mon.-Thurs. 7:30am – 1:00am

Fri. 7:30am – 9:00pm

Sat. 9:00am – 9:00pm

Sun. 11:30am – 1:00am

Total Hours: 109 hours/week

2. Washington and Jefferson University

Mon. – Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Total Hours: 109 hours/week

3. College of Wooster

Mon.-Thurs. 8:00am – 1:00am

Fri. 8:00am – 10:00pm

Sat. 10:00am – 10:00pm

Sun. 12:00am – 1:00am

Total Hours: 107 hours/week

4. Duquesne University

Mon.-Thurs. 8:00am – 12:00am

Fri. 8:00am – 10:00pm

Sat. 10:00am – 10:00pm

Sun. 11:00am – 12:00am

Total Hours: 103 hours/week

5. Grove City College
- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mon.-Thurs. 7:30am – 1am | Card Access Only
9:00pm – 1:00am |
| Fri. 7:30am – 9:00pm | 5:00pm – 9:00pm |
| Sat. 8:00am – 5:30pm | ----- |
| Sun. 2:00pm – 12:00am | 9:00pm – 12:00am |
- Total Hours: 103 hours/week
6. Mercyhurst College
- Mon.-Thurs. 8:00am – 1:00am
- Fri. 8:00am – 9:00pm
- Sat. 9:00am – 6:00pm
- Sun. 12:00pm – 1:00am
- Total Hours: 101 hours/week
7. Gannon University
- Mon.-Thurs. 8:00am – 12:00am
- Fri. 8:00am – 9:00pm
- Sat. 10:00am – 5:30pm
- Sun. 12:30am – 12:00am
- Total Hours: 96 hours/week
8. Waynesburg University
- Mon.-Thurs. 7:30am – 12:00am
- Fri. 7:30am – 5:00pm
- Sat. 10:00am – 4:00pm
- Sun. 2:00pm – 12:00pm
- Total Hours: 92.5 hours/week
9. St. Vincent College
- Mon.-Thurs. 8;15 – 11:45am
- Fri. 8:15am – 4:45pm
- Sat. 10:00am – 4:45pm
- Sun. 12:00am – 11:45am
- Total Hours: 90 hours/week
10. Geneva College
- Mon.-Thurs. 8:00am – 12:00am
- Fri. 8:00am – 8:00pm
- Sat. 10:00am – 5:30pm
- Sun. Closed
- Total Hours: 83.5 hours/week

Appendix B
SGA Survey Results, Spring 2009
(234 student respondents)

What is your current class level?

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th and up
40%	27%	22%	12%	0%

If the library were open later on Sunday (Midnight instead of 11:00pm), how often would you utilize that hour?

very rarely	rarely	sometimes	often	very often
9%	13%	27%	25%	26%

If Mack library were open later on weekdays (Midnight instead of 11:00pm), how often would you utilize that hour?

very rarely	rarely	sometimes	often	very often
13%	17%	39%	20%	11%