To: Dr. Erika Patterson

From: Eric Driver

Date: February 7, 2017

*Subject: Proposal for increasing the amount of student-accessible late night study space on UBC campus.*

Introduction: The demanding course load of the typical university student requires late nights of productive studying to meet tight deadlines set by professors. For most, productive studying means quiet, clean spaces to work. Vancouver’s high rent prices cause many students to share housing with various combinations of roommates. A noisy, roommate-filled household can seriously hamper a student’s productivity when assignments need to be completed, thus creating the need for library space. The combination of all of these factors drives a large majority of students to library facilities on the UBC campus. Despite large numbers of students using these facilities and (at peak times) a very high demand for prime study spaces UBC only has one library (Irving K. Barber Learning Center) that remains open past 10pm. This is especially problematic for students who commute to campus from far distances and may need to remain on campus for group work or be forced to break focus to travel home.

Statement of Problem: The UBC campus provides only one library with limited space for those students who would like to study past 10pm. Within this library there is extremely limited silent study space. This causes students to break focus in order to travel home and restricts their ability to work late into the night if need be. Overall this causes an increase in stress for students and a potential decrease in academic performance.

Proposed Solution: The basic solution to this problem is to open more study space until later hours. This would increase the flexibility of busy students and reduce stress on those students who commute to campus, live with roommates, and have busy course schedules.

Scope: The scope of this research will be confined to study space on the UBC campus within buildings that already exist. It will focus on providing space for those students who choose to study late but lack the resources to do so. I will focus on:

* Demand for late night study space (number of students desiring this space)
* Crowding of Irving K. Barber Learning Center in Late Hours.
* Safety of students in (as well as travelling to and from) study areas.
* Correlation of increased stress and lack of study space.

Method: In order to conduct research on this subject I will conduct interviews with UBC students in order to determine the demand for late night study space. Interviewees will remain anonymous throughout the process. I will also observe a variety of libraries at closing time and examine the number of students that are still present. Based on the results of interviews I will prepare my final report to be presented to the VP Students of UBC to open more study space for late night use. This will get the students voices heard and initiate the changes needed to resolve the problem.

Qualifications: As a student that spends a lot of time in the library and needs to study late I am passionate about this topic and will work to see changes be put through to completion. Libraries closing before I have finished my work and being forced to relocate back home often frustrates me.

Conclusion: Busy students need the proper resources to be flexible with their study hours and study late into the night if needed. UBC does not provide adequate study space for these requests and action needs to be taken. Increasing study space available to students after 10pm will decrease overall stress of students and increase their overall academic performance. I will address this problem by preparing a formal report complete with student input and present it to the VP Students of UBC.