



**Date:** November 4, 2019

**Resolution:** #19-06

**Sponsors:**

Bradley Pfeifer, CSU Interprofessional Committee Chair, School of Medicine

Andrew Lane, CSU Board of Representatives, School of Medicine

Kellie Frost, CSU Board of Representatives, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Brittney Kessel, CSU Board of Representatives, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Ashley Wynne, CSU Board of Representatives, Graduate School

Rachel Head, CSU Board of Representatives, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Jolee Espinosa, CSU Board of Representatives, School of Dentistry

Charles Altfillisch, CSU Board of Representatives, School of Medicine

**Purpose:** To reinforce to Creighton University administration that the needs of graduate and professional students are not met in fair and equal access to university learning facilities. We urge university officials to equally supply access to libraries spaces on campus for full usage hours when undergraduate students are on university breaks while graduate and professional students remain in full time status for their educational programs.

**Whereas:** Graduate and professional students are often enrolled in full-time academic programs throughout the entire calendar year. For example, the school of medicine only has one summer between first and second year when students are not in class or clinicals full-time. Additionally, classes resume a few days after the New Year when undergraduate students do not return for a week or greater. Lastly, graduate and professional school programs often continue into the summer after the undergraduate spring semester concludes. Other graduate and professional programs use similar models but vary in delivery, ex. the law program may or may not have a summer semester based on speed of degree progress.

**Whereas:** Previous meetings have been held between CSU grad/prof board of representatives members and DoIT senior representatives on March 19th, 2019, and it was stated there were not enough resources from the university administration to support such changes, but that they are receptive and understanding of the potential for change. Email communication with DoIT senior representatives was again initiated on November 11th, 2019, which affirmed the same position of receptive to student concerns but unable to provide meaningful change or resolution because of resource limitations.

**Whereas:** Other Jesuit universities of similar size to Creighton offer 24/7 library access to students throughout the entire academic semester, not just during finals week. Creighton's Health Sciences Library does not open before 7am nor stays open later than midnight while many graduate and professional students begin studying earlier and continue studying much later within their days. on weekends the library does not open until 10am, which is again much later than most students begin their day of studying. Creighton's Reinert Alumni Memorial Library does not open before 7am and never stays open later than 1am; again on weekends,



students cannot access the library until 10am. The 24/7 library atrium in front of Reinert Alumni Memorial Library may not always be adequate enough to accommodate all students. We also acknowledge the library offers 24/7 access during finals week and the week before, but this does not meet the need of all Creighton University undergraduate and graduate/professional students as there is next to no unused study space in the libraries anyways.

**Whereas:** Other institutions with graduate/professional students, for example the Medical College of Wisconsin, do not require staff working the library at all hours, rather there is only a security officer responsible for occasional patrols of that building complex where the library is within. Students must use ID proxcard access for entry, and video cameras are installed for security enforcement if needed. Using this model there would be no added fees to Creighton University, besides technology equipment for access/security.

**Whereas:** During university breaks for undergraduate students, the Reinert library reduces its hours from 8am to 5pm, of which our graduate and professional students are engaged in classes or clinical responsibilities and unable to use the library during this time and needing a place to study after classes and clinicals.. The Health Science Library is the preferred study space for many of our students and operates with similar or even less access hours during undergraduate breaks. After clinicals and classes, especially during undergraduate breaks, students potentially require study space outside their time spent with required academic activities.

**Whereas:** Some Creighton University graduate and professional programs presently offer 24/7/365 study spaces, but these study spaces are not near adequate in quantity to house all the students who may wish to study there at any given time. Additionally, students should not be expected to always utilize the same study spaces day after day to protect their mental health and provide a new environment to study in, both day to day or hour to hour depending on personal accommodation preferences. Many students study off-campus, which is fine as a preference, but many are unable to find sufficient study space on-campus and is what we perceive as unfair.

**Whereas:** The staffing of these facilities does not always require university employees, as we understand the potential financial burden of increasing access to facilities for students. There should be plenty of spaces accessible simply through student ID/proxcard access 24/7/365 not requiring constant monitoring from university employees and/or student/work-study employees. We are positive many graduate and professional students would be happy to be the sole individual working at the front desk to ensure the safety and security of the facility during later evening/night shifts when university employees may not necessarily desire to be working. Other Jesuit institutions use a similar student-run model in order to not burden their part-time or full-time staff. Creighton uses the same model for their residence halls with student works.

**Whereas:** We understand university holidays affect operational hours, and support closing campus facilities like libraries for holidays, but still request 24/7/365 access via student



ID/proxcard to specific designated study spaces. Graduate and professional students do not truly have breaks from their academic expectations to study even if students are not physically in the classroom or clinic on a holiday.

**Therefore:** We ask the Creighton University administration to financially and procedurally support DoIT and ITLS offices to expand current library access to graduate and professional students using the same hours available to undergraduate students through the whole calendar year. Further, we request to expand the regular Saturday hours at the Health Sciences Library, extended to earlier in the morning and later at night, potentially 8am to 10pm instead of 10am to 6pm and/or with continuous ID/proxcard access. Students should have equal access to facilities when they are paying equal, if not greatly more, tuition and fees than their undergraduate peers. Further, we request 24/7/365 access to dedicated study spaces at the libraries and/or other places on campus through student ID/proxcard so as to enable students to use study spaces and to not cost the university any extra staffing fees beyond the current limitations of study space access. The requests of resolution #19-06 are not intended for implementation in the Creighton School of Law Library.