From: the Student Government Association

Date of submission: Friday, February 15, 2008

To: Academic Support Sub Committee
   Student Affairs Committee

CC: Student Academic Computing

A Proposal for the Extension of the Operational Hours of the Computer Lab

Under the new doctrine of "Achieving A Dream" which has a core goal of retaining students, hence increasing graduation level and possibly moving on into a four year college, the role of academic support system/structures can never be overemphasized. However, support facilitates such as the library, computer labs and the learning labs to name a few are either lacking or non-existent for some students.

For instance, the West Regional Center has ad hoc computer lab hours of operation while the other two Regional Centers hours of operation are from 9am -8pm Mondays-Thursdays with no operational hours on Fridays. At the main campus, where the bulk of students attend the much needed support systems operate from 8am – 10pm Mondays-Fridays and 9am -5pm on Saturdays.

In a college where the classes end around 9:30 pm, having access to these support systems is impossible especially if you are a parent, have a job and attend classes that ends around 9:30 but need to use the academic support systems to do some research for a paper.

I therefore propose that the Academic Support Subcommittee take a serious look into synchronizing and extending the hours of operation to 11:00pm for all operations at all the campuses that make up the Community College of Philadelphia. This will enable the Evening students to have adequate time to work on their research papers.

I do acknowledge that this proposal will affect the financial budget of the college and some union collective bargaining agreement. However, we as an institution must also take into account the number of students who are being marginalized. Although they have fulfilled their tuition obligation to the college, they have no real access to using the facilities they have paid for.

Thanks.
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