

Jason Austin

Library Move request

Dear Associated Students Board of Directors,

On the behalf of the Environmental Center staff I am formally requesting permission to transfer the Environmental Center resource library to the Wilson Library. This request is the result of much consideration regarding the services we provide to the student body. The resource library is underused and no longer constitutes a regular service we provide to students. On average we get one person interested in the library once every 2 to 3 weeks, despite aggressive advertising of our resources. Our records indicate that a grand total of 12 students have checked out material from the Environmental Center this academic year. We also have found massive amount of missing and stolen materials that cannot be accounted for. To date around 50 percent of materials purchased within the past 5 years have gone missing, and our DVD collection is in even worse shape. According to our Environmental Center coordinator, over 70 percent of students who come in asking for materials have not been able to find what they are looking for. As a resource and programming office we have a responsibility to effectively manage student dollars, and our current systems results in hundreds of dollars of wasted fee money per year.

We come to you after brainstorming all possible alternatives to this problem. We looked into organizing an electronic system much like Wilson uses, but that isn't feasible given the limitations of a programming office. We tried devoting work study and volunteer time to the problem with little results. We even contemplated a joint partnership with Wilson Library to increase exposure. None of these ideas bore fruit, and eventually we came to the conclusion that a materials transfer is our best option. The Environmental Center is currently facing major space issues that are preventing staff from fulfilling the duties of their job description; therefore we need to critically evaluate every square inch of office space for effectiveness. Rich Osen from the Library Dean's office is already aware of this project and has ensured us space for our materials if approved.

Thank you very much for your consideration, I hope we can resolve this issue.

Jason Austin, Associate Director of Environmental and Sustainability Programs