Overview

The UALR Student Government Association (SGA) sponsored a survey soliciting campus interest in extended hours for Ottenheimer Library. A survey was created and hosted on the library’s Survey Monkey account.

Survey responses were collected during March and April 2011. A total of 243 people provided feedback via the survey.

Survey Results

A total of 243 people completed the survey. Of these, 64.4% were students, 14.5% were faculty, 16.2% were staff, 2.1% were administrators and 0.8% of the respondents were other users.

Desired Closing Hour

Overall 53.2% of survey respondents indicated a desire to use the Library after 10:45. Among student respondents, 67.3% indicated an interest in later hours. “Traditional” students indicated a slightly greater interest (69.1%) in extended hours than “Non-Traditional” students (63.6%). Only 7.7 percent of faculty/staff indicated a desire to use the Library after 10:45.

When asked about the optimal closing time for the library, the greatest number of respondents indicated a desire for 12:00 midnight. Overall, a midnight closing hour would satisfy 72.9% of respondents. A relatively small number (11.3%) indicated a desire for 24/7 coverage.
Acceptable Fees to Support Extended Hours

When asked if they would be in favor of an increase in student fees to support extended library hours, 62% of students indicated that they would be in favor of the additional fee. Of the students who indicated that they would use the library if it were open after 10:45 p.m., 80.7% indicated that they would be in favor of the additional fee. Suggestions for a per credit hour fee ranged from $0.50 to $27.50; the median suggested amount was $5.00 per credit hour.

Collections/Services Desired

During late hours, student respondents indicated the most interest in having access to computers, printers and study tables (80.6%). Users also indicated an interest in having access to scanners/copiers (57.4%) and library collections (43.5%) but to a lesser degree.

Summary

The survey demonstrated some interest among respondents in extending hours of Ottenheimer Library as well as support for increasing student fees to support the extension of hours. While some respondents indicated a desire for a 24/7 facility, most users indicated that a more modest extension of hours to 12:00 midnight would be sufficient. If hours of the library would be extended the most desired resources would be computers, printers and study tables.

One concern with deriving conclusions based the results of the SGA survey is the relative small number of respondents. With only 243 total respondents, including 160 students, the results of the survey may not be indicative of the overall view of the campus and student body of approximately 13,000. A more inclusive survey would presumably yield more indicative results.