Study Room Survey Findings

Main themes:
- Clarity in space designation as individual or group study rooms.
- Transparency in room management and administration.
- Room maintenance improvement.
- Marketing and awareness for better use of study spaces.

The Health Sciences Library is working to address the issues raised by students. If you did not have a chance to respond or if you have additional comments please feel free to contact the library director, Anna Getselman, at ag3353@columbia.edu.

The library will post a detailed plan to improve your study room experience by the end of March, 2013.

Summary

Over the course of two weeks (Feb 14 – Feb 28, 2013) the Health Sciences Library (HSL) solicited feedback from students regarding the Lower Level 1 study rooms.

The survey was distributed via email to contacts at each of the 5 schools (College of Physicians and Surgeons, College of Dental Medicine, Mailman School of Public Health, School of Nursing, and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences) and promoted on the HSL website and display screens. 215 responses were received, predominately from P&S and the College of Dental Medicine (64% and 31% respectively).

The survey findings revealed that most students use study rooms less than five times per semester. The responses uncovered that many students use rooms without reservation, and are unaware of reservation instructions. The students reported preference for 2-3 hours of uninterrupted study time (64% of complete responses), and the period between 2 and 8 pm (2-4 pm at 22%, 4-6 pm at 27%, and 6-8 pm at 32%) was the most popular one.

The survey findings provided useful information on reasoning and purpose to use study room space: for individual study, for collaborative discussion groups, and for exam preparation. This was also corroborated by comments, where more spaces, both quiet individual and collaborative group study throughout campus was described as most desired.

Survey results confirmed that wipe boards are an important attribute in study rooms (average rating of 4.33 out of 5), and comments suggested to add more wipe boards.

Study room maintenance received mixed reviews. It was rated as up to standards (average rating of 4.1 out of 5). However, a few comments suggested specific areas for improvement.