Learning Commons: What’s Working?

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Student Body Profile

• 30,000 students (5,000 graduate)
• 6,000 students live in residence halls
• Most students traditional college age
The Need

• Norlin facility improvements
• Call for 24/7 space
• Changing learning styles and needs
• Norlin Renaissance Plan
The Plan

• Enable student work
• Link space to learning
• Pervasive technology
• Flexible and collaborative
• Address student needs holistically
• Integrate the outdoors
Measuring Success

- Overnight usage counts
- Computer usage counts
- Student Comments
- Café proceeds
Norlin Commons Average Monthly Usage by Hour

- Sep-09
- Oct-09
- Nov-09
- Dec-09
- Jan-10
- Feb-10
- Mar-10

11:00 PM: 107, 124, 151, 122, 49, 103, 117
12:00 Midnight: 122, 151, 124, 103, 49, 117, 81
1:00 AM: 117, 81, 72, 36, 19, 9, 4
2:00 AM: 88, 63, 36, 19, 9, 4, 2
3:00 AM: 71, 52, 25, 16, 9, 7, 2
4:00 AM: 40, 25, 16, 9, 7, 6, 2
5:00 AM: 34, 18, 12, 7, 6, 4, 1
6:00 AM: 18, 12, 7, 6, 4, 3, 1
7:00 AM: 17, 23, 15, 12, 9, 7, 3

Note: The numbers represent the average usage counts for each hour in each month.
Commons Computer Usage

• 60 fixed workstations, 120 laptops
• 5,500 unique logins during Jan-Feb
• 2,728 unique logins on laptops
• 48 minutes average on desktops
• 72 minutes average on laptops
Average Items Checked out by Hour, Feb 2010

Norlin Circulation Desk
Norlin Commons
Student Feedback

The Good:
  “Awesome”
  “Finally a 24-hour space”

The Expected:
  “Open earlier on Sundays”
  “Keep the rest of the library open later”
  “Clean the bathrooms”

The Odd:
  “Needs a Jacuzzi hot tub…”
Student Space Utilization Study
Collaboration stations
The Future

• Revisiting Norlin Renaissance Plan

• Never enough power
• Need more desktop computers

• Enhance other spaces, including branches
Success!

• High usage
• Safe space contributes to campus life
• Students have returned to the library