



**PROJECTS & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## Extended Residence Hall Access

Beginning in Fall 2009, the Students' Association Projects & Services Committee began investigating student sentiment toward extended or 24 hour access.

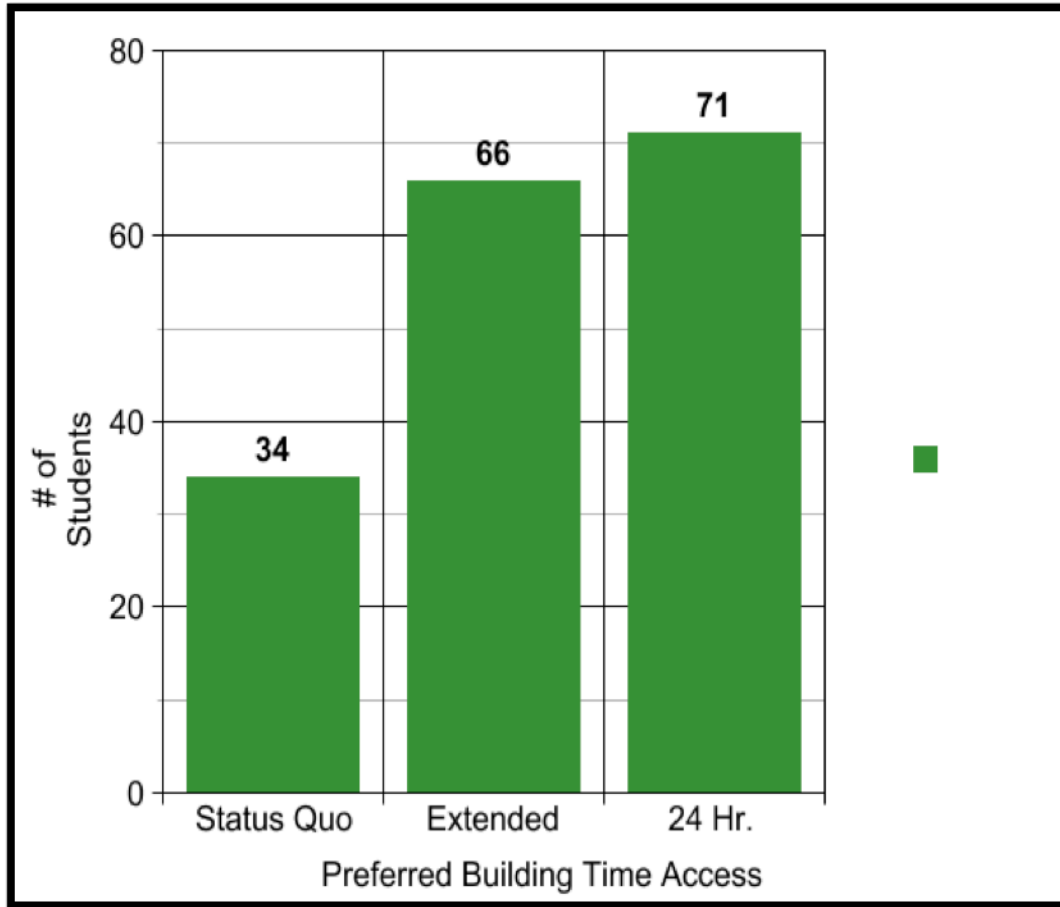


Figure 1

### The Survey

The survey was distributed to all River Campus undergraduates via email, and online at <http://sa.rochester.edu/sa/feedback/dorm-access/>. Students were asked if they would prefer:

- 24 hour access to all University Residence Halls for all undergraduates
- Extended access (until 2 or 3 am) to all University Residence Halls for all undergraduates
- Status Quo: Access until 12am to all University Residence Halls for all undergraduates

The survey then allowed for further free-write responses, answers to which are available below. In conclusion, it appears that 24 hour or extended access are key in providing the safety and convenience that students need.

## Unedited and Untrimmed Free-write Responses

### A. In Support of 24 Hour Access

1. Let's be honest. Most students aren't in bed by midnight. In fact, many don't end their night until much later. It's not unusual to visit a friend in another dorm after midnight, and not being able to get inside is annoying and unnecessary. Also, imagine having to bring a friend back to their room late at night. Needing to find their ID card to get inside the building takes longer and is especially hard during cold winter nights.
2. UR students are nocturnal. Life doesn't stop at midnight, and people tend to be coming and going 24 hours a day.
3. The number one for me: for the walkway between Sue B and the Phase bridge, it would be nice to have access to Sue B so that I could warm up and also feel safer walking in a well-lit building as opposed to the secluded walkway. If you can make it so that you can get into the front doors but not the elevators/halls on the first floor, that is perfectly fine. I think that would still allow enough security for Sue B residents while allowing a safe haven for other undergrads. I live on the quad, and I would appreciate having access to at least the two buildings next to mine so that, if I am walking home late at night or when it is cold, I at least have a refuge. It would be very frustrating to me if I felt unsafe and was unable to escape the danger because it is a minute past 12. Otherwise, it would be nice to have access to friend's dorms past midnight because I have had to wait outside friend's dorms before because they forgot to answer their phone when I have called them to say I have arrived. If this can help improve safety on campus, then I think it is worth it.
4. Because it's strictly more useful than not extending it, and I don't think there's a reason we should restrict access in the first place. I think preventing access to residence halls by undergrads that don't live there implies - at least in some sense - that we don't 'trust' them, and if that is the case, then we have no reason to trust them in their own residence halls either
5. It makes hillside inaccessible past 12. Also, people are often up past the hours of 12am and need to access other buildings to study with friends, hang out, pick up borrowed or forgotten materials.
6. Students that live off campus need access to dorms. Danforth and students studying in the library late at night should be able to get into Sue B. to go to hillside for a snack. Also, just because students live off campus does not mean that they do not have friends on campus that they want to go visit.

7. Occasionally I visit friends or change location early in the morning and need to call someone if its too late to use a card. Also, welcoming in friends in the early morning is impossible. Since keys are needed to get into rooms anyway and no non-undergraduates or special staff would be allowed in, the implications for security are minimal.
8. Students have very different schedules and keep very obscure hours. Midnight is far too early to lock the dorms and it seems that in an emergency it would be beneficial for a university student to be able to access any dorm.
9. Think about it-- You put dining halls in Sue B, and some of us cannot access it. Smart? nope!
10. I know especially for people not in Sue B., trying to go to Hillside late at night after being at Gleason or just to grab some food because it's the only place open late at night can be very difficult if those of us who are not residents can't get in. You have to hope someone is in the vicinity to let you in or wait around until someone comes over. Also, it can be difficult to visit friends in both Towers and Phase since I am not a resident of those buildings as well. I have to call my friends to come down and get me or have someone walking by let me in.

### **B. In Support of Extended Access**

1. Because its a pain in the butt to have your friend come ALL the way downstairs to let you in (esp in GLC and upper levels of phase). A lot of times I start hanging out with my friends past the midnight cut-off.
2. Working/studying with a friend who lives in a different dorm.
3. As a girl walking alone at night it would be nice to be able to swipe into buildings.
4. Most students are nocturnal. I think that midnight is not that late anymore, and it's a little annoying to have to call my friends to let me in. It would make things easier when visiting friends later at night. Also, if there is a dating situation or something of that sort, it would add convenience to a relationship. Lastly, it makes sense that we have access to buildings when the library is open.
5. Because, as college students, our community is still alive at that time and it's frustrating not to be able to have easy access to certain dorms (and thus people) and also hillside (is it just for people in SueB after the doors lock for everyone else?).

6. Hillside doesn't close until 1 on the weekends, but the doors to Sue B. are locked after 12 if you don't live there... Also, people are still up and about until 2 or 3. During the week working on homework, and on the weekends having fun. I think it would be a good idea to be able to get into any dorm room to be able to visit friends who are also still up, get out of the cold, or be separated from any non UR people on campus late at night.
7. More amenable to the average student's sleeping habits. After 3am, the majority of students are either sleeping or at home base. If you are a non-resident coming and going at this point, you are going to a primarily unconscious hall. You are more likely to be up to no good!
8. When I hang out with friends during the weekend, our plans sometime start after 12! It would be more convenient if I could let myself into their dorms.
9. I'm in a fraternity but do not live on my floor, thus don't have card access after midnight. It would be quite useful to get into what I consider "my building" after midnight.
10. As a Student Aide, lock-out hours don't directly apply to me, but I've noticed that there are a lot of people who don't live in Sue B. who nevertheless want to be able to go to Hillside after midnight. This, and just considering that many people's social lives don't suddenly end at midnight (and that many people have social lives that extend beyond their dorm building) makes me think that the access should be extended for a few hours.

### **C. In Support of the Status Quo**

1. More people could come in to our dorms and make noise at night when people are trying to sleep.
2. I really prefer not having people that do not live in my building to have access whenever they want. It's already bad enough that people hold the doors open for people at 2-3am. It is students that don't live in a particular building that cause damage and steal things. Although I can see why people want extended access, but the deal is, if that person is visiting someone then I don't see why the visited person cannot simply go to the door and open it. I really would be opposed to having access to non-residents after midnight because it puts the safety of residents that do live in those buildings in jeopardy.
3. I feel like for safety reasons there should be some restrictions on access. Students living off campus should have the same access as those who don't live in the respected dorm.

4. Stealing.
5. I don't think it's necessary. However, I do believe that off-campus students should be able to swipe into dorms during regular hours.
6. I like that there is a semi-restriction on who's allowed in the dormitories - I think it at least offers the view that unsafe people are less likely to enter the buildings, later in the night.
7. Security. If anyone has access at any time, it increases the flow of people being able to get into other areas and cause trouble. It would make freshman access to upperclassmen areas much easier.
8. Because for 2 years I lived in the quad on the main level of the dorm and it is irritating to have people always taking a shortcut down my hall. We even got blamed for damage by drunken assholes from the frat quad. If you don't live on a main floor you should not take your peace and quiet for granted.
9. If it is not broken why fix it. It is safer for all of us. Even if these are university students coming over but cannot get in, if they are expected the person that expects their presence can let them in themselves.
10. Drunk people come into my dorm all of the time on weekends (Gilbert). I live on the second floor, so they walk right in from the res quad and vandalize our hall/bathroom, as well as vomit in and make our bathrooms disgusting. Keeping the lockout time would limit the people coming in who don't belong. Also, lets be honest...it is safer for us to sleep in a building where the only people getting in are the people who are supposed to be there. Any person who wants access after lockout time should be there to visit a resident of the building...in that case, the resident can come open the door for them and let them into the building. Please do not change the hours.