



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF NCSU LIBRARIES

The Student Advisory Forum will meet on **Tuesday, April 17 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., in the D. H. Hill Library Fishbowl Forum.** All students are welcome. Join us to give feedback and help generate ideas about spaces, services, and technology at NCSU Libraries.

Dinner will be provided courtesy of the Friends of the Library.



Student Advisory Forum

When it comes to students, the Libraries is all ears

When students talk, the Libraries listens. One of the key ways we do so is through the Student Advisory Forum, a regular meeting for students who are interested in giving their input on the programs and services offered by the NCSU Libraries. The forum is open to all undergraduate and graduate students across all disciplines. Dinner is provided at each meeting, which is typically held monthly during the spring and fall semesters, courtesy of the Friends of the Library.

Wendy Scott, Associate Director for Organizational Design and Learning, recalls that “the group got its start in 2006 with an early agenda to help inform plans for the Learning Commons, part of the renovation of D. H. Hill. Susan [Nutter, former Vice Provost and Director of Libraries] was looking for direct and unfiltered input from a broad range of students...she wanted to be able to say ‘yes’ when students wanted something from the Libraries.”

Meetings now cover a full range of topics, from what technologies the Libraries should lend to how to alleviate stress during final exams to what types of spaces students would like to see in the future. And Libraries administrators and staff members are always present to engage directly with students. The forum presents a rare opportunity for students to talk directly with library leaders and to see the results of their suggestions in “student time.”

Former SAF Chair Rubia Arfeen (‘16, Biological Sciences) remembers one of the major topics she moderated: “During my first year [as Chair], the big thing was that people were concerned that the hours got cut. You could walk around the library hearing people talking

about it all the time.” So, it made perfect sense to discuss how students could help restore the Libraries to 24/5. The momentum started by this discussion certainly played a role in the hours eventually being restored.

Formerly called the Student Advisory Board, the forum has not only undergone a recent name change—one that hopefully signals a more open, welcoming arena for discussion—it has also changed venues. Once held primarily in the Assembly Room, which is tucked away on the second floor of D. H. Hill’s east wing, it is now held in the literally transparent Fishbowl Forum, on the first floor of D. H. Hill’s bustling west wing.

Outgoing Chair, Samarth Chokshi (‘18; Business Administration, Management and Operations, Information Technology), who also worked in the Libraries, is excited about the changes: “Now people can just wander in...it’s so much easier to find.” And both Arfeen and Chokshi agree—the more voices the better.

“We get a good variety of students...they’re pretty diverse,” Arfeen points out, adding, “this is really important. Otherwise, you are not going to get the right kind of feedback.” And Chokshi emphasizes the fact that this feedback is taken seriously: “Every time students have a concern or suggestion, it is very important.”

Incoming Chair Sophia Stoddard (‘19; Business Administration, Nonprofit Studies) is excited about her new role: “I’ve seen in my two years as a student employee with the Libraries that the staff and leadership often seek, highly value, and frequently implement student input. I’m hoping in my time as chair to continue to grow student participation in Libraries happenings and continue to increase student exposure to those forums.”



Sophia Stoddard is the incoming chair of the Student Advisory Forum.