

Submitted on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 - 1:25pm

Submitted by user: smh42

Request: 89

Date: October 6, 2021

Request Name: Environment & Community (E&C) Grad Student Thesis Work Space

Contact Name: Shannon Collart & Cutcha Risling-Baldy (ENST)

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Division Submitting Request: Academic Affairs

Academic Affairs Office of the Dean

Nature of Request: Requesting additional or alternate square footage without a specific room/space/location already identified.

Is this change expected to be temporary: No

Preferred Allocation Date: August 1, 2022

Space Allocation Details

Type of Space Needed

Office space is needed for grad students to have a quiet and secure place to complete their thesis work. Ideally students can book a space on a semester or academic year basis.

Alignment with University Principles

[HSU Strategic Plan](#)

Strategic Plan Goals:

- Goal 1: Academic Roadmap
- Goal 6: Student Experience & Success

Goal 1 Details:

Students require a space to complete their academic work to support their academic excellence and access to the university. Currently, students are without proper work space on campus. Securing a proper workspace for consistent use will support the curricular needs of students and help them to better prepare their thesis materials for completing their degrees on-time.

Goal 6 Details:

Students have specifically requested the use of office space and space to work on their thesis projects. This will help to integrate support for student requests and student needs to succeed in their graduate program. Many of our graduate students are first generation, students of color. This space will help to support them to meet their goals for graduation.

Collective Impact:

Student success for our primarily first generation students of color in graduate school should be supported by office and work space that provides a safe space for student engagement. Many of our students live with multiple roommates or families, they have young children at home, or they do not have workspace in their living situations. Graduate students are expected to complete well-rounded community based thesis projects primarily through independent research, analysis, and writing. It is important that they have the space to be able to successfully complete their projects and graduate on-time.

Request Importance - Needs Analysis:

Graduate students are tasked with completing independent work to finish a thesis project. Unlike other programs, there are no assigned graduate student offices or labs for our program. Multiple students in the program have asked for the option of having assigned office space so that they can work to complete their project work. These requests span multiple cohorts as well. While other programs may have lab space for their graduate students to work, the E&C program does not currently have space that can be assigned to graduate students.

Recent History:

MBU/Division Outcomes and Objectives Related to this Request:

Our primary concern is to address requests and needs that have been specifically brought by our students. Multiple students from multiple cohorts have requested access to office space on campus to complete their work. Our first division/program goal is that our students complete the program and that they are

successful at completing their graduate thesis projects. This space request will directly support that goal.

Funding

Has Funding for this Request Already Been Identified? No

Proposed Funding:

Shannon spoke with Kassidy Banducci with the Planning, Design and Construction Unit about this space need on Tuesday, September 28th. At this time no physical space has been identified, but Facilities is aware of the need. Shannon suggested FH 104 (which is currently an all-school conference room).

Additional Document Upload

Additional Document Upload

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Additional Relevant Information Not Previously Addressed:

The ongoing pandemic has highlighted the need to support students in multiple ways to recover from the ongoing issues they are facing at home and in their own communities at the same time that they are expected to attend and succeed in graduate school. Many of our students come from low-income backgrounds and would not be able to secure other spaces to work without the support of their graduate program. We see it as very important to be able to offer them space for completing their work, maintain graduation rates, and support their success in graduate school.

Routed for Review

College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences Lisa Bond-Maupin - Dean

