

# Always Open: Enhancing Campus Life with 24/7 Building Access

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## Introduction

Limited access to key university facilities beyond normal hours of operation creates a sustainability issue on campus that not only affects the overall health and academic performance of university students but the surrounding environment as well. Students with a busy work schedule and a heavy class load sometimes cannot use buildings during their open hours, and they need a place to study after hours. To solve this problem, a building will be made available for student use 24 hours a day. The need for students to commute late at night or early in the morning will be reduced with this project especially for students who live off campus leading to reduced vehicle emissions, lowering the overall carbon footprint of the campus.



Iris Frasher, Norther Iowan, 2017

## Goals

- To enhance student accessibility by providing a convenient and flexible space for studying, collaborating, and engaging in schoolwork outside of regular hours.
- To foster a sense of community by offering a centralized hub on campus for students to connect and socialize, promoting a better campus atmosphere.
- To improve work-life balance by accommodating different students' schedules and allowing these students to manage their time more effectively.
- To enhance campus safety by providing a secure environment for students to study and socialize during late hours, eliminating the need for students to be out in less secure/safe areas.
- To promote graduation rates by providing additional support and resources for students, especially those balancing work and family on top of their academic responsibilities.
- To decrease stress levels and support better mental health by providing a space for students to go and finish schoolwork.

## Accomplished Tasks

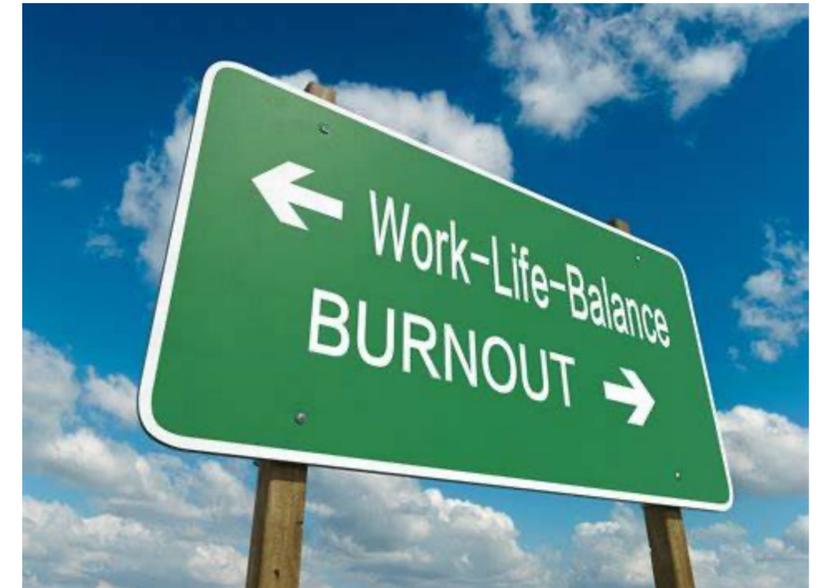
- Researched the previous 24/7 space that used to exist at CWU in the 1891 Bistro.
- Consulted with Joseph Pearson (Executive Director Auxiliary Enterprises) and Doug Ryder (Facilities Planning Officer) to learn about the previous 24/7 space on campus, and to explore options of suitable spaces to restart a 24/7 space.
- Compiled information from past meeting minutes regarding the decision to discontinue the 24/7 hours at the 1891 Bistro
- Accessed tech fee minutes regarding the implementation of the previous 24/7 space dating back to 2016
- Consulted with the Space Planning and Administration at WWU to learn about their 24/7 space.
- Set up a meeting with student tech fee council to gain funding to reinstate the 24/7 space at CWU

## Challenges

- Funding the increased operational costs of having a building open 24 hours.
- Identifying a building on campus that can support this project.
- Implementing security measures and surveillance systems to ensure student safety and property protection.
- Adhering to safety regulations and legal requirements
- If a new building is chosen to be the new center of the project, then the buildings security systems will need to be updated (electronic checkout/security systems)
- The CWU campus police must be aware of this change and the building must have a 24-hour emergency preparedness plan set in place.



(Smart Energy Decisions)



[Tips for a Better Work-Life Balance, rendia.com](https://rendia.com)

## Summary

Extending building access to 24 hours on CWU's campus will enhance student productivity, accommodate diverse schedules, and foster a culture of academic dedication. By implementing this project CWU has a chance to elevate the academic experience and show support for students in achieving their educational goals. After reaching out to stakeholders and speaking with faculty, this project is on track to be completed by fall of 2025.

This project supports the following UN Sustainable Development Goals



## Acknowledgements I would like to thank:

- Susan Kaspari for guiding me through this project.
- Doug Ryder for providing me with details on how to advance my project.
- Student Tech Fee Council for potentially funding this project.
- Joseph Pearson for communicating the potential obstacles I might face.
- Ellen Kuhlman for her time compiling information from WWU's 24/7 building.