

Letter Requesting the Improvement of the Test-Taking Atmosphere in Stepan Center

Drafted on 01 March 1999

Dear University Administrator,

As you know, for many years, Stepan Center has been used for the administration of exams to large numbers of students at the University of Notre Dame. Students, however, have continually complained about Stepan Center's atmosphere, in which they are expected to take important tests. Understanding that no other facility that is adequate for administering tests to a large number of students exists on this campus, we realize that the discontinuance of Stepan Center for test administration would be unrealistic. Therefore, we would like to suggest a change that would likely improve the test-taking atmosphere in Stepan Center.

Currently, testing students are required to sit in small, desk-chair combinations that do not provide adequate space for test taking materials. Science students are especially hindered as they attempt to juggle a calculator, answer sheet, scrap paper, formula sheets, and test booklets. Students often find themselves in awkward and uncomfortable positions; and, many times must place various items in their laps or on the floor. In order to relieve this logistical problem, perhaps the small desk-chair combinations could be replaced with the eight-foot long tables (that are currently used for various dining hall functions) and chairs that are utilized for numerous events in Stepan Center. Three students would be able to sit at each table (two on one side, one across from them), and students would thus have adequate space for taking exams.

The student honor code should eliminate the possibility of cheating with the proposed set-up, and if the two trailers that currently house the small desk-chair combinations were instead filled with the normal chairs and table, storage should also not present a problem. We hope that you find our proposal to be feasible, as we believe that a change is indeed called for in order to improve the administration of exams and the test-taking atmosphere in Stepan Center.

Sincerely,  
The Student Union Senate

Submitted by the Student Senate Academic Affairs Committee

