



Resolution 24-12

"Don't Close the Book"

Authored by:	Sawar Gupta, Areeb Khan
Sponsored by:	Sawar Gupta, Cydnee Lacy, Mustafa Al-Azawe, Marcus Otero, Aaliyah Duff, Erykah Agers, Yash Ajariwal
Date Submitted:	8/30/2024
Date Considered:	
Committee:	Community Affairs
Whereas:	The UTA library recently changed its hours from 24/7 to 7 a.m. – 2 a.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. – 12 a.m. on weekends; and
Whereas:	This decision faced significant backlash from students, faculty, and staff, leading to the start of an online petition that garnered 1,819 signatures within 4 days of the start of the semester and many students expressed that the central library was one of their deciding factors when choosing to attend UTA and
Whereas:	The UTA library claims that this decision was made after considering three factors: lack of overnight users, student trends, and the strategic direction of transforming the library into a research-focused facility, this change goes against UTAs mission, vision, and values, most specifically UTA's mission emphasizes "providing access and ensuring student success" and promoting "lifelong learning" and limiting library hours reduces access to essential resources for students, especially those with irregular schedules, challenging home environments, or those needing a quiet study space, directly hindering their academic success and learning opportunities. and
Whereas:	the UTA library's claim regarding fewer overnight users is accurate, data from September 2023 shows that while fewer people swipe in overnight, a significant number still do. And while the strategic direction of shifting UTA towards a research library is welcomed but undermines the fact that research requires long hours of focused study, for which the 24/7 library is of utmost importance
Whereas:	As of Fall 2022, UT Arlington enrolled 43,946 students, with about 10,000 students living on or near campus, with most sharing spaces with dorms and roommates. There is a lack of private and quiet areas to study late at night or

	how they feel most comfortable doing so. And whereas students need to maintain good sleep-study practices by separating where they work/study from where they sleep.
Be It Therefore Resolved That:	UTA restore the Central library hours to 24/7



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ROUTING SLIP**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 24-12

Title: Don't Close the Book

Date Passed: 10/15/24

Votes For: 18 Votes Against: 2 Abstentions: 0

COMMENTS BY THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE:

After a significant decision was made to change the *Central Library* hours, the student community reacted heavily on said decision. After 4 days the decision was announced and made, the student community expressed their concerns through media and a through a petition that garnered 1,819 signatures. This backlash consisted of concerns of where students can study, how they can access resources in certain hours that is now limited, and a quiet place to use. The Central Library has become a significant place for the student community as it provides a community hub and a safe studying space that the students were freely able to use whenever they chose to use it. However, it must be noted that in the absence of the library space for specific hours the university has worked towards providing other spaces for students to use. These spaces lack the surplus of resources that the library provided, nonetheless, spaces like Trimble Hall will now become substitutes for 24 hour studying space.

COMMENTS BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF STUDENT GOVERNANCE:

Sent to Student
Body President:
Date: 10/29/24

The original intent of the resolution (to provide a place for late-night study) appears to have been partially met (J.H. 10/29).

COMMENTS BY STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT:

Sent to University
Administrator:
Date:

We achieved a significant milestone by advocating for improved late-night study spaces. While reopening the library wasn't feasible, we successfully persuaded the administration to establish a new 24/7 study area dedicated to supporting students' late-night study needs. Moreover, the administration has assured us that if this space reaches capacity or proves insufficient, they will actively explore options for a larger, more accommodating space. This commitment marks a meaningful step towards enhancing our academic environment and ensuring that students have the resources they need around the clock.

COMMENTS BY UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Returned to Student Government: _____ (Date)

Final Action: _____



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION SUMMARY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 24-12

Title: Don't Close the Book

Date Passed: 10/15/24

RECOMENDATIONS

The Student Body recommends to the university that the library service hours be restored to 24 hours after their recent decision to end said 24 hour policy.

STUDENT NEED

Student at the University require a safe space to study, rest, and use accessible resources that may be difficult to obtain outside the library. Some of these requirements may be needed by student at certain hours that would be considered outside of regular time such as from 2:00 am – 7:00 am. The students need the library open 24 hours as it has become a hub with a surplus of resources available that help such students academically and personal improvement.

PROCESS

This resolution was submitted by one our Senate Committee Chairs along with our Vice President after the library announced its overturning of it 24-hour policy. This policy faced much backlash by the student community after it's announcement. Such backlash consisted of a petition forming that garnered 1,800+ signatures. The resolution garnered more authors and sponsors through the senate as the Community Affairs Committee was already working on such a resolution before it was submitted by our Chair and Vice President. The resolution went through many changes and amendments as the university opened Trimble Hall for 24 hours. The resolution passed in committee and was deliberated in the senate where discussion of the feasibility of the resolution was called into question due to the recent 24-hour access to Trimble Hall.

RESEARCH

When this resolution was brought into the senate, the Dean of Libraries, John Wang, presented to the senate regarding how the library came to such a decision changing its 24-hour policy. The Community Affairs Community research consisted of 2 email chains, student population count, fees, and UTA's mission statements. The resolution was amended twice before being passed by the committee.

RESULTS

The Community Affairs Committee felt that the student body requires the library to be open 24 hours as it has become a space that provides academic improving resources regardless of how many students may use it at unique hours such as from 2:00 am – 7:00 am. (4-0-0)

The Student Senate found that after a lengthy review of the resolution, that it is in the best interest of their constituents that this resolution pass. Our research has shown that access to the library for 24 hours would benefit the entire student body academically and emotionally. (18-2-0)

CERTIFICATION

Resolution 24-12 was passed by the Student Senate on October 15, 2024, under the procedure given by Section 3.2 of the Bylaws.

Be it therefore resolved that this matter be delivered to the Student Body President for enactment in accordance with Article 1, Section 1.4 of the Constitution for the Student Community at The University of Texas at Arlington.

Gaven Lopez

Speaker of the Senate Printed Name

Gaven Lopez

Speaker of the Senate Signature

Resolution Report:

This is a report on the votes made in the committee on this resolution and the reasoning behind the members' votes.

On September 24th, 2024

The committee deliberated on Resolution 24-12 “Don’t Close the Book”, after conducting an appropriate amount of research for the resolution to be implemented. This resolution asks that the UTA Central Library return to operating 24 hours a day to give students access to the resources paid for by their tuition and a safe space to study at any time that works for their schedule.

The portion “The UTA library recently changed its hours from 24/7 to 7 a.m. – 2 a.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. – 12 a.m. on weekends; and” was amended to state “The UTA Central library recently changed its hours from 24/7 to 7 a.m. – 2 a.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. – 12 a.m. on weekends; and”

The portion “This decision faced significant backlash from students, faculty, and staff, leading to the start of an online petition that garnered 1,819 signatures by August 26th (<https://www.change.org/p/keep-uta-library-open-24-7>); and” was amended to state “This decision faced significant backlash from students, faculty, and staff, leading to the start of an online petition that garnered 1,819 signatures within 4 days of the start of the semester. And many students expressed that the central library was one of their deciding factors when choosing to attend UTA.”

The portion “The UTA library claims that this decision was made after considering three factors: lack of overnight users, student trends, and the strategic direction of transforming the library into a research-focused facility; and” was amended to state “The UTA library claims that this decision was made after considering three factors: lack of overnight users, student trends, and the strategic direction of transforming the library into a research-focused facility; this change goes against UTAs mission, vision, and values, most specifically UTA's mission emphasizes "providing access and ensuring student success" and promoting "lifelong learning" and limiting library hours reduces access to essential resources for students, especially those with irregular schedules, challenging home environments, or those needing a quiet study space, directly hindering their academic success and learning opportunities. and”

The portion “Although the UTA library’s claim regarding fewer overnight users is accurate, data from September 2023 shows that while fewer people swipe in overnight, a significant number still do, with 63 people swiping into the Central Library at 4 a.m., 134 at 5 a.m., and 442 at 6 a.m., demonstrating that these hours do impact a considerable number of students (<https://dallasexpress.com/education/uta-students-petition-for-24-7-library-access/>); and” was amended to state “the UTA library’s claim regarding fewer overnight users is accurate, data from September 2023 shows that while fewer people swipe in overnight, a significant number still do. And while the strategic direction of shifting UTA towards a research library is welcomed but

undermines the fact that research requires long hours of focused study, for which the 24/7 library is of utmost importance”

The portion “As of Fall 2022, UT Arlington enrolled 43,946 students, with 30,791 at the undergraduate level and the rest being graduate students (<https://www.usnews.com/>), including a significant number of international students living on and off campus who often reside in shared spaces, for whom 24/7 library services provide an assurance of a safe space to study anytime; and Whereas: UTA charges students a \$15 per credit hour library service fee, and with most scholarships requiring at least 15 credit hours, many students end up paying at least \$225 for services, and if any services are being reduced, that should be reflected in the fees as well; and Whereas: As a research tier 1 university, removing study spots/areas without providing a viable alternative hinders the ability of students, staff, and faculty to work and meet deadlines, particularly when they are unable to find areas to work after hours;” was amended to state “As of Fall 2022, UT Arlington enrolled 43,946 students with about 10,000 students living on or near campus, with most sharing spaces with dorms and roommates. There is a lack of private and quiet areas to study late at night or how they feel most comfortable doing so. And whereas students need to maintain good sleep-study practices by separating where they work/study from where they sleep.”

The be it therefore resolved statement “UTA restore the library hours to 24/7 or provide a comparable place for students to study, and if any services are being cut, then UTA should reduce the library service fees to account for that” was amended to state “UTA restore the Central library hours to 24/7.”

and the votes are indicated below.

The amendments to the Resolution were passed with majority votes:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| • Senator Al-Azawe voted: | YES |
| • Senator Otero voted: | YES |
| • Senator Lacy voted: | YES |
| • Senator Duff voted: | YES |

Report written by Community Affairs Committee Chair, Aaliyah Duff.



Senator Name: Aalyah Duff

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP

Resolution #: 24-12
Committee: Community
Meeting Date: 9 / 24 / 24

Voting For:

Amending the resolution to include more justification
for reserving library hours

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

VOTE: For: ☒ Against: ☐ Abstain: ☐

Committee Chair Signature [Signature]

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.



Senator Name: Marcus Otero

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP

Resolution #: 24-12
Committee: Community Affairs
Meeting Date: 9 / 24 / 24

Voting For:

I vote for amending the resolution 24-12
because it puts more focus on student concerns
rather than financial

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

VOTE:

For: ✓ Against: _____ Abstain: _____

Committee Chair Signature _____

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.



Senator Name: Muhsafa Al-Azawi

Resolution #: 24-12 Don't close the book

Committee: Community

Meeting Date: 08 / 14 /

Voting For:

Voting For:
24-12, "Don't close the book" revision because we aren't
sure if number of students is accurate. Other than that,
I amend it.

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

VOTE:

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Committee Chair Signature _____

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.



Senator Name: Cyndee Lay

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP**

Resolution #: 24-12
Committee: Community
Meeting Date: 9 / 24 / 24

Voting For: Resolution 24-12 "Don't Close the Book!"

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

VOTE:

For: 2 Against: _____ Abstain: _____

Committee Chair Signature _____

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.

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Resolution Report:

This is a report on the votes made in the committee on this resolution and the reasoning behind the members' votes.

On October 8th, 2024

The committee deliberated on Resolution 24-12 “Don’t Close the Book”, after conducting an appropriate amount of research for the resolution to be implemented. This resolution asks that the UTA Central Library return to operating 24 hours a day to give students access to the resources paid for by their tuition and a safe space to study at any time that works for their schedule.

The portion “As of Fall 2022, UT Arlington enrolled 43,946 students, with about 10,000 students living on or near campus, with a sharing spaces dorms and roommates. There is a lack of private and quiet areas to study late at night or how they feel most comfortable doing so. And whereas students need to maintain good sleep-study practices by separating where they work/study from where they sleep.” This was amended to say “As of Fall 2022, UT Arlington enrolled 43,946 students, with about 10,000 students living on or around campus, majority of them sharing spaces, and because of this there is a lack of private and quiet areas to study late at night or how they feel most comfortable doing so. Moreover, students need to separate where they work from where they sleep.

and the votes are indicated below.

The amendments to the Resolution were passed with majority votes:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| • Senator Al-Azawe voted: | YES |
| • Senator Otero voted: | YES |
| • Senator Lacy voted: | YES |
| • Senator Ajariwal voted: | YES |

The amended Resolution was then passed with a majority vote:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| • Senator Al-Azawe voted: | YES |
| • Senator Otero voted: | YES |
| • Senator Lacy voted: | YES |
| • Senator Ajariwal voted: | YES |

Report written by Community Affairs Committee Chair, Aaliyah Duff.



Senator Name: Mustafa Alazam

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP**

Resolution #: 24-12
Committee: Community Affairs
Meeting Date: 10 / 08 / 24

Voting For:

amending this resolution because it's worded better.

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

N/A

VOTE:

For: ✓ Against: _____ Abstain: _____

Committee Chair Signature [Signature]

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.



Senator Name: Marcus Otero

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP**

Resolution #: 24-12
Committee: Community Fairs
Meeting Date: 10 / 8 / 24

Voting For:

I'm in favor of the changes because the
changes add clarity to the Resolution.

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

VOTE:

For: ☒

Against: ☐

Abstain: ☐

Committee Chair Signature

Rafael B. W.

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.



Senator Name: NASH AZARIVAL

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP**

Resolution #: 24-12
Committee: Community affairs
Meeting Date: 10 / 08 / 24

Voting For:

Amendments in Resolution 24-12 because
the vocabulary is better now.

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

VOTE:

For: ✓

Against:

Abstain:

Committee Chair Signature

Nash Azarival

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.



Senator Name: Cyndee Lacy

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP

Resolution #: 24-12
Committee: Community
Meeting Date: 10/8/2024

Voting For:

Amending Resolution 24-12

Cuz i hate the new library hours. If there
are understaffed then hire people cuz i will
work. They need to think about the
students.

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

FREE CENTRAL LIBRARY!!

VOTE:

For: ☒ Against: ☐ Abstain: ☐

Committee Chair Signature

Rafael Duran

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.



Senator Name: Cyndee Lacy

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP

Resolution #: 24-12
Committee: Community
Meeting Date: 10/9/2024

Voting For: Passing Resolution 2412

FREE CENTRAL LIBRARY
#RIP CENTRAL LIBRARY

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

VOTE:

For: ✓ Against: Abstain:

Committee Chair Signature [Signature]

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.



Senator Name: YASH AJARWAL

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP

Resolution #: 24-12
Committee: Community affairs
Meeting Date: 10 / 08 / 24

Voting For:

I am voting in favoe of the resolution.
The changes in library hours will
be beneficial to all students and will
definitely help them succeed in exams
and coursework.

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

VOTE:

For: ✓

Against:

Abstain:

Committee Chair Signature

Aditya Das

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.



Senator Name: _____

Marcus Otero

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP**

Resolution #: 24-12
Committee: Community Affairs
Meeting Date: 10 / 8 / 24

Voting For:

I vote for 24-12 because I believe
the library being open 24/7 is essential to
student life, and it's in line with the Mission
statement of UTA.

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

VOTE:

For: ✓

Against: _____

Abstain: _____

Committee Chair Signature

[Signature]

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.



Senator Name: Mustafa Alazawi

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE VOTING SLIP**

Resolution #: 24-12 Don't close the book
Committee: Community Affairs
Meeting Date: 10 / 08 / 24

Voting For:
passing Resolution 24-12, "Don't close the book"
It will do the students a great service.

Voting Against:

Additional Comments:

VOTE:

For: ✓ Against: _____ Abstain: _____

Committee Chair Signature [Signature]

Vote verified on 10 / 14 / 24 by Parliamentarian.

UTA Student Senate Resolution 24-12: "Don't close the book"

From Ajariwal, Yash <yxa9866@mavs.uta.edu>

Date Sun 9/15/2024 1:49 AM

To Library - InterLibrary Borrowing <library-ill@listserv.uta.edu>; library-servdesk@listserv.uta.edu <library-servdesk@listserv.uta.edu>

Cc Lopez, Gaven <gaven.lopez@uta.edu>; Duff, Aaliyah <amd1816@mavs.uta.edu>; Student Government <studentgovernment@uta.edu>

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well! I am contacting you on behalf of Student Government with an inquiry to assist our Student Senate Resolution Process.

We are currently researching Resolution 24-12 titled "Don't close the book." This is an information-gathering and fact-finding phase, and this resolution has **NOT** yet been adopted by the Student Senate.

This resolution asks what the reasons were for changing the operating hours of the library and what can be done to revert them.

To see more information on this resolution please see the attached file.

 [Resolution 24-12 Don't Close the Book.docx.docx](#)

To assist us in evaluating the feasibility of this resolution, we would like to ask you the following questions:

1. Can you please provide us with the data swipe information and usage from last fall from 2 am to 7 am, so that we can see how many students used the facilities in those hours?
2. What would it take to revert the operating hours back to 24 hours?
3. As mentioned by the dean of libraries in a video posted on the official page of the libraries, John Wang, claims the libraries to be the heart of campus but how can it be if it's not always open?
4. What is the difference between a research library and an undergraduate library? And how can UTA be called a Research-1 university if the facilities are not available 24 hours?

If possible, we would appreciate a response by the **20th of Sept** as your feedback would be extremely helpful in the process. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Yash Ajariwal
College of Business Senator
Student Senate, Student Government
The University of Texas at Arlington

Re: UTA Student Senate Resolution 24-12 "Dont Close The Book"

From Al-Azawe, Mustafa Omer Mahmoud <moa3433@mavs.uta.edu>

Date Mon 9/30/2024 8:06 PM

To Wang, Zheng <zheng.wang@uta.edu>

Cc Student Government <studentgovernment@uta.edu>; Duff, Aaliyah <amd1816@mavs.uta.edu>; Lopez, Gaven <gaven.lopez@uta.edu>

Hello Mr. Wang,

Thank you again for taking the time to provide information concerning this resolution. By providing a response, our Student Government can continue to do its job to better serve the student community here at UT Arlington.

We look forward to corresponding with you again and wish you well.

Best Regards,

Mustafa Alazawe
College of Science Senator
Student Senate, Student Government
The University of Texas at Arlington

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From: Wang, Zheng <zheng.wang@uta.edu>

Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 4:13:05 PM

To: Al-Azawe, Mustafa Omer Mahmoud <moa3433@mavs.uta.edu>

Cc: Student Government <studentgovernment@uta.edu>; Duff, Aaliyah <amd1816@mavs.uta.edu>; Lopez, Gaven <gaven.lopez@uta.edu>

Subject: Re: UTA Student Senate Resolution 24-12 "Dont Close The Book"

Hi Mustafa,

It was great having an opportunity to chat with you before the Senate meeting! I really appreciate you following up, and I fully understand how important this issue is to some students. I'm glad to assist with your research and decision-making.

The need for study space and access to Information Technology is a concern that extends beyond the Libraries. The campus department, such as Office of IT, Facility Management, Student Affairs, and Colleges will need to explore solutions to address these needs effectively. I do want to reiterate that library fees have remained at \$15 per credit hour since 2004, while the cost of educational resources has increased significantly—by 4-7% annually over the last two decades. As we are aligning with the University Research One status, the library's budget will need to primarily focus on improving collections and services to meet academic demands of students and faculty. This [Shorthorn article](#) offers the details on libraries' values to students and the decision.

Please know that we are committed to advocating for students who need additional study spaces and technology access. We will continue to work with other campus partners on those issues.

If you have any further questions or need clarification, please feel free to reach out. I'm always happy to help!

Best regards,

John Wang
Dean of Libraries

From: Al-Azawe, Mustafa Omer Mahmoud <moa3433@mavs.uta.edu>

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 2:23 PM

To: Wang, Zheng <zheng.wang@uta.edu>

Cc: Student Government <studentgovernment@uta.edu>, Duff, Aaliyah <amd1816@mavs.uta.edu>, Lopez, Gaven <gaven.lopez@uta.edu>

Subject: UTA Student Senate Resolution 24-12 "Dont Close The Book"

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well! I am contacting you on behalf of Student Government with an inquiry to assist our Student Senate Resolution Process.

We are currently researching Resolution 24-12 titled "Don't Close The Book". This is an information-gathering and fact-finding phase, and this resolution has NOT yet been adopted by the Student Senate.

This resolution asks that UTA restore the library hours to 24/7 or provide a comparable place for students to study, and if any services are being cut, then UTA should reduce the library service fees to account for that.

To see more information on this resolution please see the attached file.

To assist us in evaluation the feasibility of this resolution, we would like to ask you the following question:

1. Is there any other study spots that you could open besides Tremble and Hammond hall that have functional computers and printers?

If possible, we would appreciate a response by Wednesday, September 30th, as your feedback would be extremely helpful in the process. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Mustafa Al-Azawe
College of Science Senator
Student Senate, Student Government
The University of Texas at Arlington

Mustafa Al-Azawe

Co-Professional Development Coordinator

Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS)

University of Texas at Arlington

moa3433@mavs.uta.edu

Office: (325)725-2729

