



Sam Houston State University

A Member of the Texas State University System

STAFF COUNCIL

Memorandum

To: Dr. Dana Hoyt

From: SHSU Staff Council

CC: Mr. Frank Parker, Dr. Keith Jenkins

Date: February 8, 2017

Subject: Recreational Sports Center Operating Hours

The members of SHSU Staff Council, as per our mission, serve as a liaison between staff and the administration of Sam Houston State regarding interests and concerns of staff. It is in fulfillment of this duty that we felt necessary to address the concerns regarding the new operational hours of the Recreational Sports Center (RSC).

The RSC is currently closed from the hours of 8 a.m. until noon Monday through Friday. This has presented a hardship for staff wanting to take advantage of the University's Wellness Works release program during morning and lunch hour times. This is especially concerning given the council had already addressed requests for dedicated faculty and staff time in December of 2016. These requests were the result of long waiting lines and unavailability of equipment prior to the closures. Now that students have adjusted their schedules to compensate for the new operating hours, the waiting times are even more pronounced. We understand that standard planning for Recreation Centers is to allot 1.5-2 square feet of fitness space per student⁽¹⁾. Given our current weight/cardio area is only 10,000 square feet; we are undersized to serve our current university population, nonetheless a growing university population.

The Council realizes that free membership to the RSC is a valuable benefit to employment here at Sam Houston State. Staff have stated that one of the reasons they choose to work here over other opportunities are some of the added non-monetary benefits provided to us. We believe this is one of the reasons SHSU has been ranked as a "Great Place to Work" for several years running. It is for the continuation of this supportive culture and concern for the wellbeing of our staff, faculty, and students that we ask for administrative support to return the RSC to its original operating hours or to reach a compromise thereof.

Thank you for your time and attention to these concerns.

⁽¹⁾ Patton, J.D. & Andresen, M. (April, 2015). Trends in Campus Fitness and Rec Center Programming. *Athletic Business*. Retrieved from <http://www.athleticbusiness.com/rec-center/trends-in-campus-fitness-and-recreation-center-programming.html>