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Committee or Individual

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Issue/Concern

Security in the Library/LRC

Describe the issue/concern:

The Library (top 2 floors of the LRC) have long had security issues, especially given that we are an open access institution and the local unhoused population will come in to the space given that it's generally nice and climate controlled and there are bathrooms. I'm not addressing the 1st floor because I am not as familiar with that environment. However, I would assume that if you talk to 1st floor faculty and staff - they would have similar experiences.

Since the pandemic the environment in the LRC has been increasingly problematic. Given that there are far fewer students on campus, the number of incidents have increased and many LRC staff don't feel safe.

The librarians have long advocated for campus police to do walk throughs on a regular basis. This has happened at times through the history of the current LRC. However, it will often happen for a little while and then stop. I think currently the LRPD is walking through in the evenings - but I'm not sure.

At the beginning of last term I had to deal with a patron (probably not a student) who shouted "I will kill you all". This created a bit of a panic in the LRC among students and I had to follow him across campus to the fountain in front of the PAC before LRPD showed up.

I'm only on desk Wednesday afternoons, but something a little weird has happened almost every Wednesday afternoon. I've had to call campus police at least once to deal with a patron this semester.

Earlier this week, someone (again probably not a student) showed up and assaulted a staff member in LR236.

The LRC does not feel safe.

What do you recommend or suggest solving this issue/concern?

Create a classified position of uniformed security guard to be posted in the LRC.

This would be separate from the normal LRPD.

The security guard would stay in the LRC and not roam around campus.

The local public libraries (such as the local Belle Cooledge branch) have security guards stationed in the different branches. Why can't we have something similar?

How will this recommendation support the success of SCC students and benefit the campus community?

Students will feel more secure in the LRC.

There will be fewer incidents that are disruptive to the learning environment.

Faculty and staff will feel more secure and will then be able to better serve students.