

**STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROJECT SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION**

FA 0749/0627

ATTACH to DB70/SBC-1

DEPARTMENT : The University of Tennessee
PROJECT TITLE : **University Libraries Commons Phase 3**
INSTITUTION : The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

A. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

(Description of project. Does not have to be every nut and bolt but inclusive of all major items that need to be accomplished)

Begin Commons Phase 3, Hodges Library

Total renovation and redesign of room 245, 246 and adjacent rooms \$2 million
(8372 square feet)

The third phase of the Commons promotes the continued evolution of the space as a “learning” commons. The Commons service partners (Libraries and OIT) want to collaborate with faculty, students, and campus “learning assistance” services to further enhance teaching and learning at UT. Initial plans call for renovations that include a more visible connection between room 245 and Commons South, sound proofing the recording/sound editing rooms, building spaces for group work on digital projects, incorporating more learning assistance, state-of-the art instructional, presentation, and study spaces, and adding 21st century technology and furnishings for a flexible work area that meets both student and faculty needs.

B. EVIDENCE OF NEED:

(Justification for project, not necessarily economical justification)

Dramatic increase in gate count and circulations to undergraduates followed the opening of the Commons on 2nd floor of Hodges Library.

Steady growth, particularly involving group projects, in the use of The Studio (Room 245) for digital media production increasingly integrated into curriculum.

Consultation with SGA, Dean’s Student Advisory Group, and Technology Advisory Board consistently yields requests for continued improvements and development to the area.

Steadily receive requests from colleges, departments and other groups on campus wanting to use space in the Commons for their academic services.

In-Library user survey conducted Spring 2009 indicated user desire for more computer equipment and dedicated user space for both individual study and group work. Extend hours of operation also noted as important. 51% of those surveyed visit the library 4 or more times per week.

C. HISTORICAL PROFILE:

(Can be historical for building, program project is for, etc.)

The Commons on the 2nd floor of Hodges Library is a partnership between the University Libraries and the Office of Information Technology that offers students and faculty the tools and information they need to be success learners and teachers in the 21st century. Opened in August 2005 (phase one), the Commons was planned as a multi-phased project that would adapt to meet student needs and technological advances. Initial Phase 2 renovations were undertaken in 2007. Completion of Phase 2 and initiation of Phase 3 await funding. The area is open 24/5, closing at midnight on Friday and Saturday. It has proven to be heavily utilized by the student population around the clock when classes are in session. The Studio, a digital media production lab located in Room 245 of the Commons opened in 2001. Demand has increased for collaborative workspace, for growth and upgrades to the space. This is high impact campus space and represents continued critical investment in student learning.

D. RELATED REQUIREMENTS:

None. *(Most likely none, but if there is a definite relationship to another project that must be done before this one can be done, or is waiting on this one to be done, explain here)*

E. SUMMARY RESULTS AND DATE OF PHYSICAL FACILITIES SURVEY:

Not applicable. *(This will not apply to any of these projects)*