

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**Restoring 24/7 Library Access Resolution**

SPONSORS: Aaron Wineberg, College Council Representative Class of 2024

SIGNATORIES:

**WHEREAS** while most peer institutions of the University of Chicago offer 24-hour library access for students, the University of Chicago Library does not. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Regenstein Library was open 24 hours a day during academic terms. However, since 2020, the library has closed by 12 AM on most days.

**WHEREAS** Northwestern University (<https://www.library.northwestern.edu/>), the University of Michigan (<https://www.lib.umich.edu/locations-and-hours/hours-view>), Columbia University in the City of New York (<https://hours.library.columbia.edu/locations/butler-24>), Cornell University (<https://mann.library.cornell.edu/full-hours>), the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (<https://www.library.illinois.edu/hours.php>), and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (<https://www.library.wisc.edu/locations/>), among other peer institutions, offer at least one 24/7 library during the week for students to access without advanced reservation.

**WHEREAS** extended library hours are among the chief anecdotally cited concerns of students to members of Undergraduate Student Government. Many students, especially those with roommates and those who live far from campus, lack access to quiet study in the early morning and late evening. House lounges are often overcrowded and study pods in dormitories are occupied. Additionally, the library is viewed as a social gathering point for students as signing guests and off-campus residents into student dormitories is often difficult and frustrating.

**WHEREAS** the library has historically played a key factor in academic and social wellbeing for students at the University of Chicago. This fact is undermined by the Regenstein Library closing at 12 AM not to reopen until 8 AM the next day. While the concern of late-night studying effecting mental health is noted, it is concerning that this university is the only institution of the area not offering 24/7 library spaces. One student, Niya, in the class of 2025 explained “24/7 libraries would make a difference for me because they would allow me to get work done whenever I need to. since I have quite a busy schedule, I like the idea of having a safe and quiet place to do work that I can rely on whenever.” While another student in the class of 2024, Marja, noted: Students who have been assigned double rooms might not have access to a quiet space to study at night. As well, Wi-Fi is not always reliable in the dorms.”

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Undergraduate Student Government recognizes the importance of 24/7 library spaces for students and will recommend the adoption of open 24/7 library spaces during the academic year to appropriate administrators. While staffing and budgetary concerns will be acknowledged, USG supports a balance of expanded library hours and respecting administrative limitations.

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Undergraduate Student Government believes longer library hours do not undermine the mental or physical health of students but instead promote it by providing safe and sanitary spaces for students to complete their coursework on a schedule of their choosing.

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Undergraduate Student Government will advocate for expanding the library hours in such a way that is mindful of administrative demands but also the wellbeing of students. USG will collaborate with the library offices to facilitate these efforts.

