

ANTELOPE EDITORIAL

Disability services on the second floor is a bad decision

UNK's student support services have moved to a new home this fall. The Loper Success Hub, which is on the second floor of the Calvin T. Ryan Library, unifies several campus resources by bringing them together in one combined location.

This move was intended to create easier collaboration and accessibility, essentially creating a one-stop shop for students.

But we are questioning the decision for one office to be part of this second floor hub.

We are concerned about the accessibility issues this creates for the Disability Services for Students Office.

According to the office's website, "A disability is a physical, medical, intellectual, psychological or other type of impairment that significantly

impacts or substantially limits one or more major life activities." The office helps a wide range of students, so placing its services on the second floor seems problematic.

This creates more of a challenge for students with a physical disability to access the services meant to specifically help them.

UNK offers a lot of support through Disability Services, so they should be as easily accessible as possible. Placing them on the second floor of a building does not do that.

We recognize that there is an elevator. But just because they can use an elevator, doesn't mean they should have to.

While some services of the office can be offered virtually, an in-person meeting is

sometimes required.

Disability Services for Students said they have the ability to meet with students elsewhere and have accommodations in their space for all students. Still, if the office had remained at ground level, students wouldn't need to make preventable plans to get where they needed to go.

Plus, the elevator is at the front entrance of the library, which sits lower than the main level. There are steps leading up to this main level but some physical disabilities prevent individuals from using stairs. For example, someone using a wheelchair would have two options: use the elevator to go up a mere five or six feet in elevation or go around the library to use the ramp entrance in the back.



JENNA HEINZ / ANTELOPE STAFF

Putting the Disability Services for Students Office on the second floor means many students have to use the elevator.

Neither of these options are sufficient.

There should be a ramp at the front entrance like there previously was. It seems it was left out of the renovation plans.

We ask that the library's accessibility and the location of the Disability Services for

Students office be reexamined.

The goal was to make things easier for students by moving the student support services to one joint location. We can't say it's doing that by moving Disability Services for Students to the second floor of the library.

LOPERS SPEAK

What is the most you've ever had to lock in for an assignment?



**HARIAN
ALDAMA**
Junior
K-12
Physical
Education

"One time I had to lock in for my final in my 121 class where I had to play volleyball. I had to lock in mentally and be ready physically so I stayed up 'til like 10 p.m. preparing myself."



**BRISLY
CANAHUATI**
Senior
Health
Sciences

"It's gonna be eight hours staying up studying for my anatomy and physiology exam. I barely passed."



**NIKLAS
JUNGMAH**
Graduate
Student
Administration

"Probably a double day all-nighter that I had to pull for my graduation paper."



**JONAH
EAGLEFEATHER**
Senior
Social Work

"Tonight I have a paper due, 1,500 words and I have to watch a one-hour documentary, so that's me locking in right now."



**FRANCISCO
ACOSTA**
Junior
Criminal
Justice

"One time I procrastinated really bad on an essay and I didn't start it 'til the day that it was due. I finished a 4-page paper in five hours before class."