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1-23-2007

### Motion to restore a visible link to the library on [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu)

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*Georgia Southern University*

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*Approved by the Senate: 2/15/2007*

*Not Approved by the Senate:*

*Approved by the President: 3/28/2007*

*Not Approved by the President*

## Motion to restore a visible link to the library on [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu)

Submitted by David Robinson

1/23/2007

### **Motion:**

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That the Senate petition the university Web master to restore a prominent, visible hyperlink to the Henderson Library on the university home page, [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu).

### **Rationale:**

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The core of a comprehensive institution of higher learning is its library.

The university Web site home page is the face which Georgia Southern presents to the world.

Virtually all university Web sites provide links on their home pages to their libraries.

Georgia Southern's home page has included a link to the Henderson Library at least since 1996 according to available records. Indeed, the Henderson Library was a prime mover in establishing Georgia Southern's Internet presence in the early 1990s.

The current Web site redesign was justified by the university as a marketing enhancement aimed at attracting prospective students. However...

The university Web site is a resource used daily by current students, faculty, and staff, and is not solely or primarily a tool for new-student recruitment.

The Faculty Senate, while lacking authority over Web site design and content, should consider this matter because it touches on Georgia Southern's academic mission.

## **Response:**

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Approved by the Senate 2-15-2007

MOTION: That the Senate petition the university Web master to restore a prominent, visible hyperlink to the Henderson Library on the university home page, [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu).

For future input, the Faculty Technology Advisory Group will be reconstituted for service during the upcoming academic year. This group, last active during AY 2004-2005, was comprised of faculty from across the campus and was chaired by former CIO, Lisa Spence. During that year, this group evaluated approaches or suggested improvements in a number of important areas.

These included:

WINGS features

student remote response devices

The Wireless Master Plan

Audio-visual technology support

Spam/anti-virus software

Online student evaluations

Scantron evaluation

Storage media planning

Student Technology Fee proposal evaluation processes and communication.

**Minutes: 2/15/2007:** One from David Robinson of CLASS requested restoring a link to the library on the main Georgia Southern web page. The SEC had placed this item on the agenda; however, the SEC had decided to limit debate on the motion to fifteen minutes.

Motion, Restoring a visible link to the library on [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu), David Robinson, (CLASS): Robinson read his motion: "That the Senate petition the university Web master to restore a prominent, visible hyperlink to the Henderson Library on the university home page, [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu)." Stephen Ward had told Robinson that models were referred to in removing or what seems to be hiding the library link. Robinson

had then checked a number of college/university web sites at random to see if they have top-level links to the library: Harvard, Berkeley, Chicago, UGA, Appalachian State, George Mason, UCLA, University of Washington, and Armstrong Atlantic. They all have prominent, top-level, unburied library links, which reinforced his thinking that it is appropriate to have a link to the central academic library, both symbol and tool, at the university on the main page.

Patricia Humphrey (COST), Senate Moderator, reminded Robinson that someone needed to second his motion before discussion began. The motion was seconded.

David Robinson (CLASS) continued that he had tried to use the library through the web site, but that he couldn't find it. It was hidden under a couple of layers, and it was ambiguously named on the left-hand sidebar. On the top bar under the logo, there are links to My.GeorgiaSouthern, Campus Tour, Directory, News & Events, Majors, Calendar, Human Resources, and University Store. The University Store is there because the university wants to make money, but it certainly is not justified as a recruitment tool for students. That could easily be down on the left-hand side. So there are one or two links that could be removed, and one academically oriented one could be added on the top bar.

Patricia Humphrey (COST), Senate Moderator, invited discussion.

Ellen Hendrix (CLASS) agreed wholeheartedly. She would also like to see the Office of the Registrar featured.

Patricia Humphrey (COST), Senate Moderator, asked for additional discussion. There was none. The motion passed.

Onyile Onyile (CLASS) asked what would happen as a result of the motion.

Patricia Humphrey (COST), Senate Moderator, replied that the Senate has asked the Web master to put a link to the library on the home page.

Onyile Onyile (CLASS) added that, aesthetically, the web page needs a lot of help.

David Robinson (CLASS) agreed and suggested that the Senate might propose another motion to set up a process for reviewing the site from a faculty perspective and include aesthetics.

