



## Carlyle Campbell Library changes food and drink policy

### New dean changes policy to allow food and drink inside the library.

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Have you ever been trying to study for a tough exam in Meredith's library when all you can think about is that bag of cookies you had to leave in your dorm room? Next time, you can bring it with you.

As of Dec. 2, the Carlyle Campbell Library's food and drink policy has changed to allow food and drink in library study areas, with some restrictions. The new policy asks that users "refrain from eating greasy, crunchy, smelly or messy foods" that could damage library materials or cause noise that would distract other patrons.

The policy also states that library patrons should not have food or drink near any electronic equipment in the library, including copiers and computers. Food and

drink are not allowed in the main library's LINC Center or the Music Library listening area.

Paper towels and cleaning supplies will be available at the circulation desk for any spills that occur. The new policy also encourages patrons to dispose of trash, including crumbs, wrappers and drink cans, properly.

According to Laura Davidson, the library's dean of information services, changes to the policy had been discussed even before she joined the Meredith staff in August. Discussions with Facilities Services to plan for any extra housekeeping services that would be needed to facilitate the new policy began soon after Davidson's arrival.

Rather than using the library, many students choose to study in their rooms, and Davidson and her staff had been exploring ways to bring more students into the library.

"It's just not convenient for me to leave the library to go eat. I'd rather just stay in dorm room where I can have food and study at the same time," freshman

Angila Thornton said.

"The library staff here is concerned about students and want to make the library a more inviting place for students to use," Davidson said. "I had had a good experience with a fairly liberal food policy in my last library and we agreed that this would be a good thing to try here as well."

Senior Stephanie Leer said, "It would be really nice to feel more comfortable in the library. If I knew I could eat lunch or something in the library I would be more likely to go there to study."

Davidson said that she had not received any direct complaints about the old policy, which prohibited food and drink in all areas of the library. However, she said that library staff members had relayed complaints to her that they had received from students.

Even though some students had complaints about the library's old policy, Davidson said that the new policy is actually more uncommon among college libraries. "Open food policies are becoming more and more common in libraries,

but still only a minority of libraries have policies as liberal as ours," Davidson said.

N. C. State University's D.H. Hill Library food and drink policy states that covered drinks are allowed in most areas of the library but that food is not allowed anywhere but in designated areas or near vending machines.

However, some other schools do have policies similar to Meredith's new one.

"I always wondered why our library policy was so different from other school's," said sophomore Amanda Lee. "All of my friends at other schools always eat their lunches in their libraries."

Senior Sandi Davis has had a similar experience during summer school at UNC-Wilmington. "I was studying with a group of friends in the library there, and when we got hungry, they said we could order pizza and have it delivered to the library," she said. "It really surprised me that they could do that in the library because I was used to Carlyle Campbell's rules."

Davidson emphasized that this new policy is being instituted on a trial basis. "It is really up to the people who use the library to make the new policy work by helping us keep the library clean and our books and equipment undamaged," she said.

Davidson is also looking into the possibility of the library's purchasing a coffee cart that would be placed in front of the library and serve light food and beverages. However, there are currently no definite plans for such a cart.

She also does not rule out future changes to other library policies. "As a new library dean, I am asking lots of questions about how and why things are done the way they are here," she said. "In some cases, as we discuss our processes, the library staff and I have identified things that should be changed and this will continue."

Davidson also said that she welcomes suggestions about library policies from the Meredith community.

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