

Library, Fresh Ideas team up to put in new coffee shop

By **Hanna House**
Staff reporter

Coffee is a necessity when studying. The library understood that and gave away free coffee to any student that brought a mug. Then they took it away and watched students fall asleep at their books. Now, the college and Fresh Ideas are joining forces to not only reintroduce coffee to the library, but to build a coffee shop.

In January, Fresh Ideas and the college will be introducing a new coffee shop in the front lobby of the library. The area will be turned into a lounge, adding doors, new lighting and comfy seating.

“It will be an open space where there will be some different seating, so people can have coffee or collaborate on projects,” said Kristin Humphreys, associate vice president for business services and project lead.

Dalene McDonald, library director, said the plan for a coffee shop in the library has been talked about during former president, Dick Merriman’s years at Southwestern, but was put on a backburner until just re-

cently.

Humphreys said Fresh Ideas is planning on having pastries, coffee and smoothies for sale right away and always has the opportunity to expand and offer more options later.

The perks of having the coffee shop on campus are numerous said McDonald. The shop will prove handy during events such as Explore More, Homecoming and Hall of Fame inductions so visitors will

have a comfortable space to congregate.

Humphreys and McDonald are very excited for the opportunities the shop will provide. Although, College Hill Coffee being only a block away was a topic for discussion at the planning meetings.

“The idea isn’t really to compete with College Hill Coffee, but to have another venue for students when they are working late at night in the library or when they don’t have time to go to College Hill,” said Humphreys.

For right now, the shop will be open whenever the library is so students can drink their coffee however late it is.

The set up for payment will be similar to what the Java Jinx uses so flex dollars, as well as regular payment with cash or card will be accepted as a valid form of payment.

There is no set open date for the coffee shop, but it is expected to open early in the spring semester.

Hanna House is a senior majoring in communication. You may email her at hanna.house@sckans.edu.



Opinion: New coffee shop gives College Hill Coffee competition

By **Turki Alturki**
Staff reporter



Students, faculty and staff often look for a good place to have coffee and talk. We will soon have a new coffee shop in Deets Library and this will add another place for students to congregate. Many of the students, faculty and staff are currently buying their coffee from College Hill Coffee and this new coffee shop might change that.

The new coffee shop faces a challenge to be good as College Hill Coffee.

The location is an important thing that might bring the new shop success. Having the coffee shop in the middle of campus will give it a high chance to have more people come by and purchase coffee. I don’t think most of the students will continue to go to College Hill Coffee if we have this new coffee shop in the library.

The library currently opens at 7 a.m. while College Hill opens earlier in the morning at 6 a.m. but in the meantime College Hill closes at 6:30 p.m. If the coffee shop hours will be the same as that of the library, that will make College Hill get the morning people, and the coffee shop will get the night people. Also I don’t think that the college will allow

the coffee shop to be open while the library is not open.

The other thing that the new shop will need to take care of is the speed of making the orders. They need to be fast and efficient because most of their potential customers, students and faculty, are often running to a meeting or class and will not have

much time to wait around for their order.

We do not yet know what the coffee shop will look like, but I don’t think that the students will care much about the appearance. Although, a few couches would be nice.

The biggest thing that will determine whether the new shop is successful is the prices. I think the prices should be cheap so the students can buy coffee more often because if the prices are similar to College Hill’s, or more, that will make the coffee shop fail.

The other major issue that the new shop will have to address is the quality of the coffee being served. No one will buy bad coffee and if they don’t like it, they will just go down to the street to get a cup of coffee. I don’t think the students will be looking for something like Starbucks or Dunkin’ Donuts, but they want something they can drink everyday and be happy with.

The food should also be good, fresh and healthy. The new coffee shop needs to also have a menu that everyone can find something to eat. The fresh food is one of the main reasons why people go to College Hill Coffee.

The start of any business is not easy at all, and this coffee shop should listen to the customers and satisfy their needs.

Turki Alturki is a sophomore majoring in communication. You may email him at Turki.alturki@sckans.edu.



The lounge area in the Deets Library sits empty to allow for construction and renovations to begin over Christmas break. While a date has not yet been set, the new coffee shop will most likely open at the beginning of the spring semester. **(Hanna House/ Staff Photographer)**