

Library's hours not likely to change soon

By SAM HENDRIX

Last November, Flor-Ala editor David Drissel wrote an editorial stating that "UNA should immediately hire an additional librarian to replace Ms. Dillard (who had resigned), and allow the Collier Library hours to return to previous levels."

The issue was raised again two weeks ago in a letter to the editor which said the SGA should devote its time to problems such as the library's insufficient hours.

Last week, SGA President Tim Ray, in a letter to the editor, said that the SGA is working on the library hours issue, and that a solution could be close, possibly to lengthen the library hours during exam weeks.

The problem is money. When Ms. Dillard resigned from her librarian's position last fall, the university decided not to replace her as it could not afford to hire a new full-time librarian.

Ruth Dacus, head librarian at Collier Library, said that she had asked the

administration about hiring an additional full-time staff member, but that at this time money for this is not available.

It is obviously not in the best interests of the university to shorten library hours from what they had been previously. However this was done several months ago and it is doubtful that any change will be made soon.

But, as Ms. Dacus said, the library serves the entire university community, not just a small percentage of the student body. And the present staff, although dedicated to serving the students as best they can, is not large enough to serve efficiently a university this size.

The SGA proposal to increase hours during exam periods is currently being considered by the administration. This would involve hiring an additional student worker. Money in that department is tight, too. But it would be a great help to many students and a nice step toward improving the services offered by Collier Library.

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