Compilation of Learning Space Observations – Other Venues

1. Date and Time of Observation:

McDaniel Center -- Thursday, November 19, 2015
Biology Study -- Fall semester

2. Location:

Thursday – McDaniel Center in front of cafeteria
Fall semester – “Biology Study” Room 210 Loeffler

3. Number of students present with visible radius:

1-6 students (over the semester no more than 5 at a time) unless a group is meeting in the Biology Study.

4. Number of possible spaces available to sit (utilization of space):

In each venue 9 soft chairs and 3 tables for 6-8 people. In the McDaniel Center, 5 sofas.

5. Types of tasks students engaging in (ex: homework, group projects, non-school/social):

They are using smart phones and laptops and some socializing in both venues. In the Biology Study students get together on group projects, but most often prior to a test students gather to teach each other the material.

6. Campus services perceived to be utilized? (ex: Food from Alvin’s library books, computers, assistance, etc.)

Only the Biology Study answered this question: Students frequently bring their lunch (either from To-Go or Alvin’s); until recently there was a small “café” in the room (it would be easy to resurrect it again); they consult the magazines, study guides and books available in the room, there is a computer lab across the hall from the Study; there is also a copier in the room that students can access, and a white board.

7. Campus services offered within visible radius:

Only the Biology Study answered this question: A computer lab

8. Environment:

a. Did students move furniture around to create their own environment?

McDaniel Center – No
Biology Study – Yes
b. Is natural light available?
   McDaniel Center – Yes
   Biology Study – No

c. Are students wearing headphones?
   McDaniel Center – No
   Biology Study – Sometimes

d. Are students sitting alone or working in groups?
   McDaniel Center – 2 pairs, the other 2 alone
   Biology Study – Both

e. Are students working at tables? Sitting in comfortable chairs?
   In both venues the students are sitting in comfortable chairs, most at tables.

f. What technologies are present?
   In both venues, there are cell phones, laptops, and tablets.

g. Is electricity or the availability of a power source important?
   Biology Study – Yes

h. What is the noise level of the area?
   McDaniel Center – Pretty loud.
   Biology Study – Fairly quiet unless there is a group.

i. What is the average time on task of students observed?
   Biology Study – About an hour.

j. What surprised you about how the students were engaging in learning?
   Biology Study – How well the students work together; how well they teach each other.

k. Based on your observation/perception, what attracts students to the building space?
   McDaniel Center – Students were socializing and waiting for others. [T]he entire group was gone within 15 minutes; some left even earlier, but were replaced with more students. I then went back to the Shadeed Lounge, where I had seen a student and a faculty member working separately earlier. Both were gone.

   Biology Study – It is either quiet or they can meet/interact freely without a lot of supervision or comment from the “establishment.”