

Mercer University School of Engineering

Feasibility report: Purchasing Lockers for Student Rental

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To: Dr. Codone
From:
Subject: TCO 341
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Feasibility Report

Introduction

Undergraduate students at Mercer University School of Engineering enjoy the use of a building distinct from the rest of the campus, however this building is an inconveniently long way away from student housing and students must carry heavy bags of book back and forth across campus several times a day. Many students have expressed dissatisfaction with this arrangement and have lamented the lack of personal storage space in the engineering building. This pervasive sentiment indicates that a student organization would be able to use locker rental as a reliable income source. As a motivated student I have investigated options for purchasing lockers which could be rented to students on a semester long basis. In this report I will explain my criteria for evaluating locker options, present the results of my product search, and recommend a course of action.

Conclusion

After comparing four different locker purchasing options, I recommend that 15 triple tiered lockers be ordered from the company Locker Solutions. This will provide 45 individual locker compartments for rental at a cost of \$43 per compartment. These lockers can be rented out for approximately \$30 per semester. Thus paying for themselves in a single school year and generating significant income every year following their purchase. Students renting the lockers would benefit from having a safe place to store their belongings and school supplies in the Engineering Building.

Criteria

The factors which were taken into account when considering locker options included cost, space requirements, aesthetics, and durability (2 Hohns).

- Cost is a very important factor because the lockers must be able to pay for themselves in a short period of time in order to begin generating income for the group that purchases them.
- Space is also a critical consideration because the amount of free space in the engineering building is limited.
- Aesthetics are taken into account because it would be impractical to designate an entire room to the housing of lockers so they must be in public areas.
- Durability is important because high maintenance costs are burdensome to the organization responsible for the lockers.

Initial analysis

Based on student interest, an initial investment to purchase approximately 30 lockers would be reasonable. The best place to put these lockers is against the empty wall in the study area on the second floor of the engineering building (1 Kennedy).

Because of the need for adequate space for large textbooks, it was determined that lockers 15-18 inches deep would be most effective. Double or triple tiered lockers were found to be the best use of the limited wall space in the study area (2 Hohns).

Results

With these guidelines in place four major purchase options emerged. First new, custom lockers could be ordered for the space in whatever size and color is desired. Second new, in stock lockers could be purchased from dealers in the colors and sizes available. Third used, customizable lockers could be ordered to fit the space in whatever colors are available. Fourth used, in stock lockers could be purchased in whatever sizes and color are available.

1st-New, custom lockers are guaranteed to fit the space well, be aesthetically acceptable, and be durable. The company Locker Solutions makes quality custom lockers which would fulfill the needs of Mercer engineering students (3). They quoted a price of \$1624 (shipping included) for 15 double tiered lockers, 30 lockers total. Or \$1967 (shipping included) for 15 triple tiered lockers, this gives 45 lockers total.

2nd-New, in stock lockers would be easy to order and come in very specific sizes and colors which could be chosen to fit the needs of the school. A company which carries suitable two and three tier lockers is Wayfair Co. The most cost effective option this company carries is a durable set of three columns of three tiered lockers for approximately \$400 per set (4). This would provide 27 lockers in approximately nine feet of wall space for roughly \$1200.

3rd-Used, customizable lockers could be ordered to fit the space available with some selectivity for color, type, and condition. This would provide refurbished lockers which can be expected to last. The company best suited to provide these lockers advertises their products on buyusedlockers.com (5). I have contacted them for a quote but they have not yet replied.

4th-Used, in stock lockers could be purchased from Lightning Lockers. These lockers come in sizes, colors, and prices which are well suited to the small scale need of Mercer engineering students. Lockers in good condition may be chosen to ensure durability (6). The pricing of these lockers is less than \$50 per person.

Comparison

The quotes I acquired indicated surprisingly little difference in cost for the evaluated options with prices quoted ranging from \$43-\$50 per locker. This is a reasonable cost because if the lockers were rented out

at around \$30 per semester, they would pay for themselves with a small profit in a single school year. The following table details the comparison of the locker options based on the weighted criteria.

Option	Cost (40 pts)	Durability (30 pts)	Space Needed (20 pts)	Aesthetics (10 pts)	Total Score (out of 100pts)
New, custom	40	30	20	10	100
New, in stock	38	30	20	10	98
Used, custom	----	28	20	8	30*
Used, in stock	35	28	20	7	80

*There could be no evaluation of cost due to the company's unresponsiveness.

Recommendation

Based on the evaluation of locker purchasing options I recommend that new custom lockers be ordered from Locker Solutions. Specifically it is my conclusion that 15 triple tiered lockers be ordered at a cost of \$43.71 per locker compartment. These lockers require a maximum of 16 feet of wall space so they will easily fit within the space available. They come in neutral colors which will be aesthetically acceptable. And they are made of 16 gauge metal which will be durable and tamper resistant.

Conclusion

Purchasing lockers for the students of Mercer University School of Engineering would fulfill a need for student storage space and would be a viable income source to a student organization which purchased them. Ordering new, custom lockers from Locker Solutions is the most cost effective and long term way to fill this role. The lockers will allow students to store their school materials, books, and laptops in a safe and convenient location. They will also be a valuable asset to the group which owns and manages them because they will be a reliable income source with low maintenance costs and high returns. I recommend that the purchase of lockers for students of Mercer University School of Engineering be pursued promptly.

Annotated Bibliography/ Citations

1. Kennedy, M. (2000). An open door. *American School & University*, 73(4), 23-5. Retrieved from Education Full Text database, http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com.proxy-s.mercer.edu/hww/results/results_single_fulltext.jhtml;hwwilsonid=INIOFHKAFXMQPQA3DIMSSF4ADUNGIIV0

This article discusses options for high schools regarding academic lockers. The author, Mike Kennedy, informs people of several options for school locker selection. The article describes various alternatives pertaining to lockers such as single vs. double tiered lockers, placement, and whether to have them at all. It points out several considerations such as placement, safety, and noise to evaluate in the selection process. This article reflected information pertaining to several of my selection criteria.

2. Hohns, C. (1997). The right combination. *American School & University*, 69, 52. Retrieved from Education Full Text database, http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com.proxy-s.mercer.edu/hww/results/getResults.jhtml?_DARGS=/hww/results/results_common.jhtml.35

This article describes features of lockers for use in high schools. The author, Charles Hohns seeks to inform high school administrators of locker elements and options so that they can select the best equipment for their school. The article describes the basic parts of lockers and makes suggestions for some features such as metal gauge. It takes into account the durability, aesthetics, and safety of school lockers. This article helps me grasp specifics regarding the makeup and durability of locker alternatives.

3. *WayFair.com* (retrieved 10/ 17/11), http://www.wayfair.com/show_detail.php?sku=ASI1205&piid%5B%5D=2370028&piid%5B%5D=2370043

This company sells assembled lockers ready made with a set price. The website is intended to provide online purchasing of in stock lockers. It gives specifics for all aspects of the lockers and markets them to small scale purchasers. This company provided a price reference for new, in stock lockers.

4. *LockerSolutions.com* (retrieved 10/17/11), <http://www.lockersolutions.com/rfqThanks.php>
This company sells custom ordered lockers. The website advertises their products and functions as a quote request form for locker orders. The company has a variety of options including color, number of tiers, type of locks, ect. This company provided a reference for new, custom made lockers.

5. *BuyUsedLockers.com* (retrieved 10/17/11), <http://buyusedlockers.com/double-tier-lockers.asp>
This company sells customizable used lockers. The website advertises their products and directs potential customers to get quotes for locker purchase. The company products have a wide range of options and availability and are customizable. This company provided a reference to used, ordered custom lockers.

6. *LightningLockers.com* (retrieved 10/17/11), <http://www.lightninglockers.com/>
This company sells used lockers of various specifications and quantities at set prices. The website advertises their available products and allows online shopping. The company carries a variety of types, colors, and quantities. This source provided me with a reference for used, in stock lockers.