

The Testing Centers administered by CADR are under-resourced and under-funded to the detriment of students requiring academic accommodations and with the consequence that an unmanageable additional workload burden is being placed on faculty instructors to meet those requirements.

CADR has struggled to retain sufficient workers to run the North and South Campus Testing Centers. Consequently, it has been difficult to meet the demand during the regular fall and spring semesters, and almost impossible during the summer. In particular, the North Campus Testing Center was completely closed last summer (2023) and faculty teaching sections of CHEM 1110 and 1120 (usually 30-60 students), for example, were left with no option but to manage individual testing accommodations for multiple students, while having to concurrently administer tests to the main student cohort.

This problem has been exacerbated by the need to manage very large numbers of students requiring academic accommodations. The number of students registered, and number of proctored exams for the last 4 years for both North and South Campus Testing Centers is as follows:

Academic Year	Students Registered with CADR	Number of Proctored Exams
2020-2021	865	2988
2021-2022	791	2591
2022-2023	628	6251
2023-2024 (incomplete)	798	2343

One manifestation of the problem is the explosion of requests for private rooms for testing. If the private room testing is prescribed by CADR, the university is duty-bound to provide such facilities. The following data for the North Campus Testing Center for the three most recent semesters indicates the magnitude of the problem:

- Spring 2023: 112 students had a private room accommodation, which comprised 569 of 2081 proctored exams (27%).
- Fall 2023: 124 students had a private room accommodation, which comprised 669 of 2187 proctored exams (31%).
- Spring 2023: 111 students had a private room accommodation, which comprised 563 of 1530 proctored exams (37%).

When one considers that the North Campus Testing Center has at its disposal merely **FIVE** private rooms to accommodate these students in Des Peres Hall, it should come as no surprise that the system is beyond breaking point, and that the situation will deteriorate further if the trend is sustained. CADR staff have resorted to using their own offices as private rooms for testing in the BSC. This cannot possibly be deemed acceptable at this institution and may be contrary to federal guidelines for the administration of support services for students with disabilities.

The situation is acutely problematic for courses with large enrollments and often leads to sometimes 5-10 private room requests that must be accommodated *per section*. Sometimes students can be accommodated the following day in the Testing Center, but this is often not the case and in order to maintain the academic integrity of tests (of which multiple versions often have already been produced in order to minimize the possibility of integrity infractions), exams can only be administered within a limited time window (24-48 business hours). Thus, instructors

are often burdened with having to both locate and schedule private rooms for students who cannot be accommodated in the Testing Center.

The lack of sufficient resources provided to CADR has created an impact beyond just proctoring exams. An additional important resource that CADR provides is lab assistants for students who are injured or otherwise physically unable to perform an entire experiment. The majority of lab assistants must be found on short notice, and the hiring process typically takes 1.5-2 weeks, which often causes students to go 1-2 experiments without a lab assistant. Last year, a potential solution was proposed of hiring a pool of lab assistants at the beginning of the academic year, which would significantly shorten the process of obtaining a lab assistant, allowing students to have a lab assistant much more quickly. However, this was not further explored due to the significant staffing issues experienced by CADR this year, causing them to divert their efforts away from this ostensibly small but significant need.

Suggested Motion: The Faculty Senate Academic Affairs subcommittee is charged with investigating the institutional scale of this problem and generating recommendations for addressing it.

5-10-24