The library, it is the heart of studying at NJIT. Yet with the influx of more students every year attending NJIT the library has found itself more congested than ever. In addition the library is finding very hard to secure funds for new resources for student usage. All of this and more was discussed by the faculty library committee, which the Student Senate then proceeded to pass a proposal to the university on the needed improvements of the library.

The entire proposal, which can be read on studentsenate.njit.edu, goes over basic changes to the library, which students would appreciate and are not overly expensive. For starters, the overall cleanliness of the library is something of interest, as dusty computers, uncleaned rugs, and stained couches would make any germ-o-phobe squirm. Ground outlets and desk lights do not work, leaving many students in the dark and without power for their laptops. In addition, books seem to be very outdated, which is why the Senate is encouraging the purchasing of new material for student usage. Most of these requests can be taken care of by NJIT’s Physical Plant department, with library maintenance needing a look at by the university.

The boldest of recommendations is the suggested relocation of NJIT’s Center for PreCollege Programs, which is currently located on the second floor of the library’s other half. The moving of this department would open the floor to the construction of more study rooms and space, where the library has seen a consistent congestion. If the university plans to consider its increase in enrollment, then the Senate must hold it responsible for providing needed facility space that can accommodate as many students as possible.

Since the proposal has passed there has been a visibly greater effort to clean the library by custodial staff. An architect has been inspecting the library and will make recommendations as to what needs to be fixed specifically and what new furniture needs to be ordered. With any luck the Van Houten Library will soon see better days ahead.

“As I grow to understand life less and less, I learn to love it more and more.”
Jules Renard