

Noah Bonvissuto

► **FIU Biscayne Bay Staff & Committee**

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Regarding the lack of Left-Handed Desks at FIU

Dear, FIU staff and committee,

My name is Noah Bonvissuto and after two semesters, I have been unable to find a proper left-handed desk within the institution. I am an English Major entering my senior year in the fall and have noticed a serious lack of left-handed desks within both campuses. As a student, I want members of our school to become aware of this problem and figure out how the university could provide proper desk spaces for left-handed individuals. Every classroom or lecture hall I have attended has failed to supply a proper desk for students who require one. On the FIU website under the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion tab, it states, "FIU remains committed to cultivating an environment of accessibility and equal opportunity, where all are welcomed to learn, earn, and thrive." According to these words, it is the job of the school to provide equal opportunities for all students. But the lack of left-handed desks says otherwise. It leaves the question of why are there a lack of left-handed desks? Is there not enough demand for them or is it due to the manufacturer who provides them?

Left-handed people make up about 10% of the world's population which is around 795,100,000 people. Within the 56,000 totaled enrolled students at FIU, if you apply the estimate that about 10% of the population is left-handed to the student body at FIU, about 5,600 students at FIU would be left-handed. From a sample size I collected from five classrooms in AC1 & AC2, out of 150 desks, 0 of them were left-handed. With the amount of 5,600 students being left-handed roughly, that would mean there is a severe lack of proper desks provided by the institution. This problem is not unique to our school as well, in an article published last week from The Daily Barometer, an independent campus newspaper of Oregon State University, details the same problem. It says, "For many left-handed students at Oregon State University, a shortage of left-handed desks means a full class period of uncomfortable note-taking." The lack of left-handed desks effects multiple universities and schools nationwide. With this information, what can we do as a school to address it? I think that by addressing this problem and getting it attention will highlight a situation that occurs daily at our school. Why is there a lack of left-handed desks? I cannot truly answer this question on behalf of the school, but as a student I believe it's due to bias. Our personal bias blocks what we are not affected by and in general, most people would not know that there is a lack of left-handed desks unless they are left-handed, or someone points it out for them. By highlighting it, it allows me to speak out for others whom by are inflicted by the same issue.

From, Noah Bonvissuto

Noah Bonvissuto

FIU Student

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