Title: Are Sungshin IT facilities sufficient for our students to study?

581 words

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These days, programming is drawing attention as one of the key abilities to find employment. Not only students majoring in computer science need programming abilities, but also liberal arts students and other natural science students are encouraged to learn computer language. In lots of jobs, programming is needed for high productivity, so candidates are asked in interviews if they are capable of programming. Following this social atmosphere, Sungshin opens classes to encourage students to learn programming. Python programming course is opened as a liberal arts class which any non-computing majors can learn. As for students who are majoring in experiments, the class ‘Python for natural science students’ is mandatory for graduation. At Sungshin, computer-related majors are in the College of Knowledge-Based Services Engineering which was founded in 2017. Total of eight departments are in the college and as for the Department for AI convergence, it was formed in 2021. Huge amounts of students, including students who are majoring in computers and even non-computing majors, are participating in programming classes.

As programming is important in the job market and the number of IT majors is quite large, it is a challenge for Sungshin likewise to provide more space and supports so that students can receive the best education they can. However, considering the size of students studying programming, it is hard to say that students are receiving enough support. The following are the official IT spaces in Sungshin. As for the Donam Soojung campus, there are two Computer Practice Labs each named Smart zone and Ubiquitous zone. The Smart zone provides 30 seats and the Ubiquitous zone provides 102 seats. Mia Woonjung campus has similar IT facilities named Computer practice Lab and Peppermint. Each provides 44 seats and 51 seats. The problem is not only these facilities are small, but the installed software is only HWP and Microsoft, which means that it is impossible to program with these facilities. Other places where students can use PCs are libraries on each campus. Facilities where students can use editing programs, mac PC, and streaming media service are provided, **but there isn’t a single space where software development programs are installed**.

Besides official IT spaces, is there a special space for majoring students to study? This is a hard question to answer. The Department of Convergence Security Engineering and Department of Service & Design engineering are provided with apparatus such as MacBooks and iPads due to the prime business. But except for these two departments, others aren’t provided with IT equipment. Laboratories are provided only to the departments mentioned above and departments of AI Convergence, Computer engineering, and Knowledge-Based Engineering don’t even have places to program outside of school hours. Engineering students pay quite a high tuition fee compared to other majors, but it is kind of hard to say that students are provided with spaces to program.

It is mandatory for Sungshin to expand facilities related to IT. One way would be to purchase apparatus that students can freely use in the library. By purchasing, students can easily return these after using those in team projects in the study rooms. In addition to that, the installation of many more SW development programs in the existing computer labs could be a realistic and easy way for students to program in school. There are many voices of both within and outside the computing-based majors calling for the necessity to increase IT facilities in Sungshin. As much as our society these days emphasizes IT, one certainly hopes that there would be changes in our facilities as well.