

Recommendations to Expand Griz Give-and-Get after Spring 2024

I have five recommendations to encourage Griz Give-and-Get's future growth. First, make a promotional social media page for Griz Give-and-Get. I think it is best to keep Griz Give-and-Get as a platform on Microsoft Teams since it allows any student to access it. However, as I have previously stated, one downside to Microsoft Teams is that students rarely check it. What many students often check is social media. By creating a Griz Give-and-Get promotional social media page, students can see what items are available on Griz Give-and-Get through their social media accounts. This may encourage students to visit Griz Give-and-Get's official Microsoft Teams page and request for items they first see on their social media. Hopefully, this would also generate greater interest among students about Griz Give-and-Get.

Second, I recommend adding more features on Griz Give-and-Get. For example, although all exchanges have occurred on Griz Give-and-Get's "General" channel, I have added an additional channel that is labeled as "Textbooks." My idea behind this channel is it could serve as a place for old students to give away textbooks to new students who will need them for future classes. Although I have done nothing with this channel, adding to it or adding other additional features to Griz Give-and-Get may help it to gain traction. Nevertheless, one should avoid adding features for the sake of adding features. This may make the platform more complex than it needs to be.

Third, review ways to make Griz Give-and-Get more accessible. While most students seem able to easily access Griz Give-and-Get, interacting with students at the sustainability fair has taught me that there are some who have trouble. While it may be inevitable that some students will always have difficulty accessing Griz Give-and-Get, the platform needs to be as accessible as possible to flourish. It may be worthwhile to review potential ways to enhance Griz

Give-and-Get's accessibility.

Fourth, connect with other offices at the University of Montana to encourage them to promote Griz Give-and-Get. If UM Housing and UM's orientation team begin to promote Griz Give-and-Get, then it could help to make it more visible to students. Particularly those on campus. Other connections that may help Griz Give-and-Get include the campus food pantry and social services department. Since these entities work with students who may lack many financial resources, Griz Give-and-Get may help these students to find stuff they need for free. This would help promote Griz Give-and-Get's second goal of helping students who have financial burdens.

Finally, people need to continue to promote Griz Give-and-Get. I believe that if nobody promotes the website next year, nobody will use it. Students need to know and continue to be reminded that this is a platform that could help them and Missoula's community.