

UNC Charlotte Dining Hall Wars: SoVi vs Social 704

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CHARLOTTE, NC– Students at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte have been debating throughout the year between South Village (SoVi) Dining Hall and the newly updated Social 704-previously known as Crown.

Crown Commons, now Social 704, was renovated in the Spring of 2024 and has now updated their menu, seating options and overall layout. SoVi dining hall just had its fifth birthday August 12 of this year and continues to have students raving about the food options along with the desert bar that cannot be found at Social 704. Students cannot go wrong while choosing which dining hall to go to, but they have their preferences.

In a survey taken with 19 respondents, 42.7% of students prefer Social 704 where the other 57.3% prefer SoVi. These respondents had the option to express why they felt the dining hall they chose was better and responses varied.

A majority of the respondents said they favored one over the other due to the location. If they lived in a South Village dorm, they preferred SoVi. On the other hand, if they lived in North or East village they liked Social 704 better.

“I live in Lynch Hall so social is way easier. At lunch time Social is packed and you can't find seats. Ultimately SoVi is better due to it being bigger and having more seating options.”

Freshman at UNC Charlotte, Breanna Smida, shared her feelings about the on campus dining experience. She went on to talk about how she wished she lived closer to SoVi because the atmosphere and food options are exponentially better.

“Crown or Social 704 does not make grilled chicken or chicken tenders anymore and instead makes grilled cheese all day. Losing the grilled chicken is detrimental to the health of our students as it is a great low calorie, high protein option.”

She feels the food quality at Social 704 has gone down drastically from the start of this fall semester.

On the other hand, a few respondents said they were happy with Social 704's more basic, never changing menu and said the convenience of knowing they will always have something to eat when they chose to go to the dining hall.

“Sovi is more diverse and offers foods not everyone enjoys so it’s very hard to enjoy it sometimes crown usually has the basics and its overall better quality”

It truly is a toss up to the dining hall wars for UNC Charlotte, but after my last discussion with senior Virginia (Ginny) Barnes, it was clear that SoVi was the winner.

“Going to SoVi just feels nostalgic, I have been to SoVi dining hall four times this semester with my friends and everytime it makes me emotional that I am actually graduating soon,”

Ginny goes on to talk about how although she is a picky eater, between the salad bar and the pizza bar she is sure she will have something to eat. In her opinion, what sets Sovi apart from Social 704 is the dessert bar.

Overall, there is no going wrong with either Social 704 or SoVi so next time you find yourself hungry on campus grab a meal at any UNC Charlotte dining hall.