

Learning Commons Committee

April 12th, 2011

10:30-12:00

921 YRT

Agenda

1. Notes from Feb 28th, 2011 meeting
2. LC Statement Draft – draft document to be distributed
3. Updates:
 - Academic Initiatives Fund (AIF): Virtual Learning Commons grant
 - Undercurrents Event – March 24th
<http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/Home/undercurrents>
 - CST/LC Joint Workshop
 - Summer plans in the LC Hub
4. Review of the Past Year
 - Co-curricular week programming – Oct. 12-15th
 - New digs! - October
 - Learning Commons Launch & Open House – Oct. 20th
 - Re-introduction of Learning Skills Drop-Ins
 - LC Retreat – Dec. 8th
 - Meetings with Hub professionals
 - AIF Virtual Learning Commons Grant – announced Apr. 1st
 - CST/LC Joint Workshop – April 27th
5. Looking Ahead
 - Sue Vail – AVP, Teaching & Learning
 - AIF – round 2?
6. Meeting Schedule
 - Summer meeting?
 - Fall meeting schedule?
7. Other Business

Learning Commons Committee

Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 10:30-12:00
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Attendees: Cherie Bova, Tom Greenwald, Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt (Co-Chair), Sophie Bury, Dianne Twombly, Norda Majekodunmi, Mark Robertson (Co-Chair), Tom Scott, Cathy Boyd-Withers, Patrick O'Neill, Scott Pope

1) Notes from Feb 28th - Approved

2) Learning Commons Statement draft

The draft was circulated among the members for their feedback and comments.

- At the December 2010 LC retreat it was apparent that while the LC partners share a core philosophy and approach to academic literacies, these principles were not yet articulated. We proposed to draft a statement that would articulate them.
- The statement will be useful in training new LC members, as well as for promotional and communications purposes.
- Patrick O'Neill, Cathy Boyd Withers, Mark Robertson, and Scott McLaren formed a working group to draft the statement.
- Minor changes to the document were suggested. The revised version will be distributed.

3) Updates

AIF

- The Virtual Learning Commons project received AIF funding for its 1st year. Total: \$196K.
- The funding is effective as of April 1st.
- Will be an elearning toolkit that covers academic literacy range
- Several new hires will have to be made: a web designer, instructional designer, A/V technician and possibly a project manager.
- The platform for the project must not require programming skills to change. We need to be able to continue developing the VLC even after we no longer have a Web Designer.

Undercurrents – March 24th

- The Library Student Advisory Group (LSAG) helped create the first *Undercurrents* event, a series that is hosted by the York University Libraries and aims at showcasing the work being done by Undergraduate students. This event specifically highlighted the extracurricular activities of four extraordinary students.
- Timothy Bristow and Angela Hamilton led the LSAG students in the development of this event. The event was held in the Collaboratory area of the Learning Commons.
- 4 students presented: Brianna Roberts, Michelle Cho, Marcus Joo, and Meara Tubman-Broeren.

- The reception of the event by students in the Collaboratory was positive.
- This is envisioned as an on-going series.
- More information: <http://www.yorku.ca/yul/news/index.php?s=undercurrents>

Joint CST/LC Workshop for faculty

- April 27th – “Teaching your students what they need to succeed: Library research, writing and critical thinking skills”
- Ros Woodhouse will be the facilitator; joined by 4 or 5 members of the Learning Commons
- The event will begin with a student “fishbowl” in which students discuss the challenges they face in dealing with academic tasks.
- Faculty will discuss at round tables with a LC consultant positioned at each table
- Present positive suggestions on assignment design

Summer Plans in LC Hub

- Writing hours will be providing drop-ins
- Learning Skills may not be providing drop-ins
- Partners are asked to inform Norda as hours and workshops are scheduled.
- Powerpoint presentation can be used for LCD panels

4) Review of Past Year

- ✓ Co-curricular week programming – Oct. 12-15th
- ✓ New digs! - October
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5) Looking Ahead

- Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt finishes in her role as AVP, Academic Learning Initiatives at end of June.
- Sue Vail will be as AVP Teaching & Learning as of July 1st.
- We discussed how best to welcome and orient Sue Vail to the LC
- A one hour May meeting will be scheduled to meet with Sue Vail.
- Other possible plans for coming year:
 - Liaise with Red Zone
 - Orientation /training for new student staff
 - Norma Sue and Norda will be attending meeting of College Masters regarding academic orientation

Fall meeting schedule:

- **Action:** Meetings will take place every 6 weeks as per this past year. First meeting will be in August. Schedule TBA.