

# Learning Commons Committee

August 28, 2012

11 am -1pm

York Research Tower (YRT) 921



## Agenda

1. Welcome New Members
2. Notes from June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - Business arising
3. Scheduling meetings
4. Information items:
  - College handbooks
  - Promotional Videos
  - LC Hub signage
  - New Faculty Orientation
5. Discussion:
  - Learning Commons website (redesign)
  - Learning Commons goals 2012-2013
    - a) Professional Development
    - b) Teaching Commons partnership
    - c) Peer mentorship
6. Next meeting
7. Other Business?

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## Notes

Present: N. Majekodunmi (chair), J. Spencer, P. MacFarlane, P. Warren, J. Dupuis, S. Bury, T. Scott, D. Twombly.

Regrets: A. McKenzie, C. Popovich, C. Salole.

1. Agenda:  
C. Popovich and C. Salole were to speak to items 5 c and d. We may need to address them at future meeting.
2. Welcome New Members  
N. Majekodunmi welcomed the new committee members for 2012-13.
3. Notes from June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting  
No errors or omissions were reported.
4. Scheduling meetings  
October 16 is the next meeting. Most members can attend. Future meetings could be moved to the Library or another space on campus if the members in attendance have sensitivities to the YRT space.
5. Information items
  - College handbooks and other promotions  
N. Majekodunmi contacted Suzanne Parks regarding the college handbooks, but no samples were available at meeting time. There was a full colour tab insert in the handbooks promoting the learning commons. Last year we promoted the workshops and Hub services using brochures, but obtaining information from partners was time consuming on a monthly basis. This year the plan is to rely on the advertisements in the handbooks and the newly designed website which is expected to be ready by December.

- Promotional Videos  
The promotional videos are still in draft form. They have been placed on the Learning Commons website in key areas. Feedback on changes in placement is welcome and should be sent to N. Majekodunmi.
- LC Hub signage  
The hub signage was reviewed and images were shown of the space and what the signs would look like. A. Poon is helping Library Facilities work on the signs. They are expected to be up next week.
- New Faculty Orientation  
N. Majekodunmi will be promoting the Learning Commons and the Libraries with a table and poster presentations on Wednesday August 29<sup>th</sup>. We are still waiting to receive promotional material from some departments. There is also a Parents orientation day where J. Dupuis will promote the Learning Commons.

#### 6. Discussion:

- Learning Commons website (redesign)  
The original learning commons website was designed in 2010, and therefore a refresh was in order. The new website was previewed. The committee was pleased with the overall look and feel of the new website. Partners were invited to review the material in their sections and provide feedback or text edits to N. Majekodunmi. It was noted that the 'services' section could change to 'assistance' as it is more accurate.  
Feedback:
  - The text of the workshop description should show up in the calendar. Do students know to click on the bolded numbers? The descriptor 'workshop' was called out having a possibly negative connotation.
  - Group seminars. Can the seminars be grouped by subject/title as opposed to by who offers it? This is underscored by the collaborative nature of the learning commons. Can we explore sorting the workshop list differently. Research and writing are not mutually exclusive activities and the Learning Commons should reflect this in the way they conduct their work.
  - Sorting the list different ways would be useful according to how people would approach it.
  - Collaborative workshops should be listed under all of the skills covered. P. Warren provided an outline of collaborative workshops taught in previous years. The changes can be implemented at the end of term.
  - N. Majekodunmi reminded committee members that partner workshops listed in the YU events feed can be tagged with "Library" and will appear in the feed on the Learning Commons page. There are filters applied to feeds to indicate location, which may or may

not be useful to students looking for workshops. Workshops are also done in colleges (by librarians and partners). It was generally agreed that because the LC is more than a space, 'Library' can be selected on any workshop listing that would apply to Learning Commons.

- N. Majekodunmi asked for suggestions for the resources page.
- Contact us: there was general agreement on creating a generic Learning Commons email address instead of listing the partners separately.
- It was explained that the rooms in the learning commons are kept separate because they are booked differently than other Library study spaces. A link was requested on the page for other rooms in the Library system and rooms offered by partners.
- A staff section has been set up so that colleagues can share material and there can be collaboration amongst partners. A list of possible content was circulated to the committee. Different portions of the website could be managed by people responsible for those areas.

N. Majekodunmi will try to implement most of the changes and provide a live link to members of the committee

- Learning Commons goals 2012-2013
    - a) Professional Development
- There was an idea to hold a "Kickoff" meet and greet and court new talent, reiterate the Learning Commons goals, and spark some collaboration. The event is planned for Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 11a.m.- 1:30 p.m. Topics to be covered include an introduction projects such as teaching commons, teaching collaborative projects and a brainstorming of new ways to conduct workshops.

Teaching Commons partnership and Peer mentorship will be moved to the next meeting.

7. Next meeting  
October 16, Room TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.