

Learning Commons Committee

Dec. 2nd, 2-3:30

Room 503, Scott Library (5th floor)

http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons_committee/



Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Notes of Sept. 29, 2014
3. Business Arising
4. Information:
 - Experiential Education workshops?
5. Discussion:
 - Strategic Plan Draft
 - Learning Commons Website
6. Subcommittee reports
 - Virtual Learning Commons/SPARK (Adam)
7. Other Business?

Learning Commons Notes

Tuesday December 2, 2014

Present: P. MacFarlane, G. Maheux-Pelletier, I. Maimets, T. Mgwigwi, M. Robertson, T. Scott, R. Sheese, E. Sims, A. Taves

Regrets: D. Twombly, C. Salole,

Genevieve Maheux-Pelletier was welcomed to Learning Commons and Ellen Sims announced she will be stepping down and leaving York at the end of January 2015.

Notes of Sept. 29, 2014 were approved.

Business Arising

Mark R. briefly brought new committee members up to speed on the opportunity that was presented to LC about collaborating with CDS in June. While LC expressed concerns about not wanting to collaborate on the tutors, there is interest in developing an online interface to help students connect to services and resources on campus. Mark R. presented the idea to Maureen Haig of CDS and Michelle Miller and they are supportive of and interested in collaborating. Students could fill out an online form to do a brief self-assessment to indicate what is of interest to them literacy, writing skills etc. and how they would like to receive help. The tool would then tell them what services or resources are available on campus for the student. Further discussions about the online interface will need to take place as there is "no map" of what academic support looks like. Mark R. will report back in the New Year.

Information:

Experiential Education Workshops – How does this fit into LC?

Experiential Education creates unique learning opportunities within the classroom and actively tries to engage students in the community, and then encourages reflection about the experience to develop new skills, new attitudes, or new ways of thinking. The Committee noted that the reflective learning must be systematic and deliberate, in which students need to be able to build awareness around the classroom, community and workplace.

Julie Rahmer and Robin Sidhu are both on the EE Faculty Leads Working Group with Ellen Sims and Mark R. Julie Rahmer from Career Centre will call a meeting where discussion will be around what EE Workshops look like, what are the competencies and how are others on campus dealing with this. Mark R. mentioned that Karlene Davis, Teaching & Learning Support, LA&PS runs a similar workshop in which he had a chance to view the slide deck.

Mark R. went on to discuss "A Case for Change Experiential Education Integration at York University" highlighting the Experiential Education Strategies.

<http://avptl.info.yorku.ca/files/2013/10/2013-10-30-EE-A-Case-for-Change-DRAFT-FOR-CONSULTATIONS.pdf>

The diagram shows subway stops – a sense of spectrum, broken into main buckets.

How is LC different from EE?

Differences noted were some students don't have basic writing skills. Instructors can't assume the students are coming in knowing how to write. Some can, some can't. eLearning is broad based and you are taking for granted that we can help students. Collaboration among the partners is needed. Engagement and self-direction – students need to be self-starters when confronted with unfamiliar situations and tasks in a real-world context. Ron S. suggested tapping into what they are doing in the Career Centre and asking Dianne T.

Discussion:

Strategic Plan Draft:

The Strategic Plan Draft will act as a framework to give LC more visibility across the University. The Planning group met in August and came up these pillars. The Pillars are durable pieces of the plan and valid for 5 year and the strategies are priorities for the next year or two.

Mark R. asked for comments / revisions:

3. Students: Elearning

Change 3.5 wording to:

"Identify and prepare supports specifically for students in elearning environments."

4. Faculty – no changes needed

5. Space / Learning Environments

On hold. No funds available to develop Phase 2.

Comments about the Learning Commons website

- Hours of support are hard to locate.
- Assistance options buried within site.
- Teaching Commons will go directly to main source.
- Site mainly used when directing students. More for information purposes.

Subcommittee reports

Virtual Learning Commons / SPARK

- Library Research Roadmap has been pulled from public view on the web and redirects to SPARK. A message indicating its retirements ran for a few months on the LRR homepage.
- YU Learn is slated to be pulled December 12. A message to that effect is currently on that site. After December 12, there will be redirected to SPARK.

- The Academic Integrity Tutorial is slated to be retired at the end of the Winter term. A notice to that effect will go up shortly. After its retirement, it will redirect to the Academic Integrity module in SPARK.
- Approximately 700 students have enrolled in the SPARK quizzes Moodle course to take the Academic Integrity quiz. Quizzes for the modules will be made available there as they are completed.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.