

# Learning Commons Committee

Jan. 11, 2012, 3:00-4:30

921 YRT



## Agenda

1. Notes from Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting
  - Business Arising
2. Information Items:
  - Update on Transfer Credit Funding projects
3. Updates:
  - Virtual Learning Commons (Mark & Ron)
  - Workshops Subcommittee (Peggy & Tom G.)
  - Faculty Subcommittee (Mark)
4. Discussion:
  - LC Web Site
  - LC Phase 2 Classrooms
5. Other Business

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[http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/Home/learning-commons\\_committee](http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/Home/learning-commons_committee)

Present: T. Greenwald, D. Twombly, J. Dupuis, R. Sheese, S. Bury, P. McFarlan, N. Majekodunmi, T. Scott,

Regrets: L. Ubaldi, Peggy Warren

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1. Notes from November 17, 2011 were accepted with no changes or revisions.

Introductory remarks:

- Mark Robertson welcomed John Dupuis who will be taking over his acting chair role while he is on sabbatical. Questions put to the committee were:
  - i. Who will chair?
  - ii. How will the Learning Commons apply to science and engineering academic literacies?

**Action:** Suggested a road trip to visit Guelph's Science and Engineering Learning Commons.

- No new business arising.

2. Information Items:

R. Sheese discussed transfer credit funding indicating that the government will make it easier for students transferring from community colleges to universities. The Learning Commons applied for and received funds allowing it to hire three people to create 6 videos

- Understanding What You Read
- Prevent Plagiarism
- (next)
- (next)
- (next)

Some would be scheduled for noon and on Saturdays to accommodate transferring students who may not be available during regular daytime hours. A lot of publicity and feedback for the project has been generated.

**Action:** R. Sheese to send M. Robertson documentation regarding workshop design. A professional development session will be included.

### 3. Updates:

Kent Murnaghan has been hired to work with Dave Gibson (sp) in LTS on the video project. He has been interviewing students who will assist in this project in a similar fashion to those who worked on "In their own words" videos, wherein the productions aren't scripted.

They have been working on identifying the role of librarians in terms of support for students, using the Ask a Librarian chat, writing and learning skills along with a 'student voice'.

#### Workshops:

P. Warren provided a report from the Learning Commons Workshops Subcommittee dated November 17, 2011.

1. Four collaborative workshops have been scheduled for the next four months. Highlights include:
  - o December 14<sup>th</sup> - Professional development workshop on IT freebies for all LC partners, went well. It provided a clearing house for materials. It was intended for internal use and has potential for wider communication.
  - o January 2010 – Researching and Writing
  - o February 1, 2012 1:30-3:30 – Researching and Learning Skills
  - o March 2012 – Job Hunting – researching, CV, writing, interviewing

A further suggestion has been put forth: Writing Ph.D Statements.

2. Wordpress training for LC partners (December 12)
3. Next meetings – November 25 and December 12
  - o Learning outcomes
  - o LC programs of instruction,
  - o Curriculum outlines,
  - o Expanding partnerships,
  - o Devising new workshops

The workshop subcommittee wants to ensure workshops continue their association with FGS.

**Action:** M. Robertson will send out a list of FGS workshops to Associate Dean Tom Nobel.

The Learning Commons Faculty Subcommittee has had two meetings so far; the next will be scheduled for late January. Three emerging ideas:

- o Assessment – Survey or focus group with Faculty for a needs assessment.
- o Approach select faculty open to being in a pilot collaboration project where emphasis is upon Academic Literacy
- o Create a Summer Institute for Academic Literacies – may require funding.
- o Should liaise with Deans who have teaching portfolios.

Celia Popovic, Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning, will attend our next meeting.

#### Virtual Learning Commons:

- o Received \$158K for year two funding. Year three's focus upon developing content for students will move to year two.

- RFP to be done if \$100k is exceeded
- Year three will focus upon a faculty model which is still in development
- M. Roberts introduced SPARK – *Student Papers and Academic Research Kit*.

Four draft versions of the proposed home page were presented to the committee. Student feedback on the SPARK acronym was favourable, indicating that it was definitely memorable. Each draft had three divisions indicating the basic processes of the VLC. Two modules out of the proposed twelve need to be completed by the end of year two. Final draft launch date is yet to be determined.

**Action:** M. Robertson to send out the drafts link.

#### 4. Learning Commons Website:

- D. Twombly is refreshing content.
- Create a schedule for updates
- York branding needs to be moved from the bottom right of the screen to a more visibly prominent spot.
- Navigating to the library is not easy.
- It needs more graphic content
- The 'space' does not indicate there is a physical space as well as a virtual one.
- Videos are definitely important and helpful.
- Add a FAQ with questions such as 'who provides...?' 'how do I register for...?' 'how can I book group study rooms...?'
- Include a password protected staff link at bottom
- Make it a class project for digital media students.
- What would be updated –
  - Tips from partners
  - Researching topics
  - FAQs
  - Testimonials / case studies
  - Invite course directors to write 750 words or create a video on what makes a good essay

#### Learning Commons Phase II:

Floor plan RFP – shows two classroom spaces that will occupy present office space. The classroom on the right will have office space and designated computer network drops for use by the libraries. The left side classroom will be used for learning skills, workshops and events. It will be designed to be more flexible, thus it will not have the designated drops. There will also be a waiting area for the next class(es).

M. Robertson suggested the committee should submit other considerations regarding this space to him

The present location of Quiet Space beside the Collaboratory should also be moved.

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Meeting adjourned: 4:39pm

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3:00 – 4:30 pm 921 YRT