

# Learning Commons Committee

January 22, 2014

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Location: SMIL Screening Room, Scott Library

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



## Agenda

1. Notes of November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013
2. Business Arising
3. Information items
  - LC Ambassadors Update (Kalina)
  - Learning Commons Reading Group (Mark)
4. Discussion
  - LC Retreat (Mark)
  - SPARK – Update (Sarah Coysh & Adam Taves)
5. Subcommittee reports
  - Faculty Sub-committee (Sophie)
6. Other Business?

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Committee**  
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1 to 2:30 pm  
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**NOTES**

Present: K. Grewal, S. Bury, P. MacFarlane, A. McKenzie, M. Robertson (Chair), E. Sims, R. Carcasole

Guests: A. Taves, S. Coysh, A. Thompson (Learning & Organizational Development)

Regrets: T. Scott, P. Warren, C. Salole

1. Notes of November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 were approved.

Mark welcomed Andrea Thompson from Learning & Organizational Development who will be the facilitator of the LC Retreat in February. She is here for the agenda item on the Retreat. In addition, A. Taves and S. Coysh will be giving an update on SPARK.

## **2. Business Arising**

### **Learning Commons Branding**

We still need to bring the LC branding in line with York branding requirements. This would include the LC banners and website. The next step in the process is to write a new creative brief. Work on this has not yet begun.

### **LC Brownbags**

2 Brownbag sessions on academic literacies took place this term.

1) SPARK: Intro and Discussion, on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1 to 2 pm in Room 503, Scott Library  
Speakers: Sarah Coysh, Adam Taves and Ron Sheese

10 people were in attendance. The session focused on how SPARK can be used to help students acquire literacies. The session also discussed strategies for working with Faculty to integrate the modules into curriculum, and how the modules can be used to promote blended learning.

Embedding Academic Literacy Instruction into Disciplinary Courses: Laying the groundwork  
Tues. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 to 12  
Speakers: Ron Sheese and Sophie Bury

Approx 25 people were in attendance. The session described Ron and Sophie's AIF funded project to encourage the integration of academic literacy instruction into disciplinary courses at York through work with instructors on assignment design and curriculum development. The work is based on an extensive literature review and on focus groups that were conducted with York instructors. They will also describe the findings from each of these and the progress, in conjunction with the Learning Commons, to design faculty programming.

### 3. Information Items

- **LC Ambassadors Update**

K. Grewal noted we currently have 1 Learning Commons Ambassadors (LCA) from the original 3 and that Anusheh would be with us until April 2014. The LCA teamed with the Red Zone Ambassadors in Vari Hall to promote the Learning Commons, however, Vari Hall was a challenging location to interact with students.

The LCA will also be involved in some aspects of the Undergraduate Research Fair (URF) which takes place on Tues. February 25<sup>th</sup> in the Scott Library Collaboratory.

Anusheh has also been interviewing partners involved in the Learning Commons. The interviews will be posted online.

A. McKenzie suggested the LCA could visit classrooms and tutorials to talk to students about the Learning Commons. The students might be more receptive in receiving materials from peers. K. Grewal was going to explore this option with A. McKenzie.

- **LC Readers Group**

M. Robertson distributed a handout about the 'Learning Commons Reading Group.' The group is for anyone associated with the Learning Commons or interested in issues related to academic literacies. M. Robertson will host the first discussion on the theme of information literacy and sense-making. Others are welcome to volunteer suggestions for topics and facilitate subsequent sessions.

### 4. Discussion

- **LC Retreat**

The LC Retreat Working Group (M. Robertson, A. Thompson, D. Twombly and R. Sheese) met twice to plan and design a Retreat for the LC. The group agreed that the retreat should provide a look back at where we have come, celebrate our accomplishments, give an opportunity for the diverse group of partners to share ideas and perspectives, and look ahead at what we would like to accomplish in the future.

M. Robertson distributed a draft 'Learning Commons Retreat Agenda' and discussed each point in detail.

1. Introductions & welcome
2. Journey: M. Robertson created an LC timeline which outlines where we came from and where we see ourselves as going. Mark welcomed suggestions and encouraged everyone to review and edit items that were missing or incomplete.

3. Overview of Learning Commons: presentations will be given by several members of the Learning Commons providing an overview of what their unit/department does and how have they contributed in the development of the Learning Commons.
4. World Café: 4 conversations around 4 questions. Each team will have a chance to write and add their viewpoints.

- **SPARK – Update**

Adam Taves presented Google analytics data about SPARK.

Adam Taves and S. Coysh are currently working on an FAQ page to address the top things people are searching for in SPARK.

The Faculty module is under development by S. Bury, E. Sims, A. Taves and S. Coysh. This module will provide ideas for faculty on how to incorporate SPARK modules as well as exercises and assignments into their class or curriculum. The launch date is the end of March.

The Academic Integrity tutorial is also currently being developed. The target launch date for this module is the end of February.

An assessment of SPARK is being planned. Janet Morrison, Vice-Provost Students has agreed to share the cost of an assessment with Libraries.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.