

Learning Commons Committee

June 20, 3-4:30 pm
York Research Tower (YRT) 921



Agenda

1. Notes from May 10th meeting
 - Business arising
2. Information items:
 - College handbooks (Norda)
 - Promotional Videos (Mark)
 - LC Hub signage (Mark)
3. Discussion:
 - Peer mentoring (Mark and Norda)
4. Learning Commons goals 2012-2013 (Norda)
 - LC Steering Committee goals
 - Subcommittee goals (workshops, faculty, virtual learning commons)
5. Scheduling meetings (Norda)
6. Other Business?

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3:00 - 4:30 pm

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Notes

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

Present: M. Robertson, N. Majekodunmi, (co-chairs) D. Twombly, S. Bury, R. Sheese, J. Dupuis, P. Warren, T. Greenwald

1. Notes from May 10th and April 4th meetings were distributed.

Business arising:

- Continued the discussion definition of Academic Literacies brought forth at the May 10th meeting. A finalized definition is still in progress. It was suggested that we could include some examples of academic literacies (though not an exhaustive list).

2. Information items:

College handbooks (N. Majekodunmi)

At the last meeting (May 10th) the committee decided to include a one page insert for all the college handbooks totalling 7000 copies. N. Majekodunmi sent R. Sheese and J. Lagerquist draft for input. The total cost for these insertions would be \$750.

J. Dupuis raised concern regarding Stong and Bethune (Science students) suggesting that the Learning Commons advertising might confuse them and give the impression that Scott Library was their only library rather than the Steacie Science Library. We agreed to include information in the ad that indicates that Steacie library offers support to science students and Bronfman supports business students, so as not to give the impression that the LC @ Scott library was the only resource available to students.

Promotional Videos (M. Robertson)

M. Robertson presented a 'draft' video – produced by K. Murnaghan and LTS. The committee viewed a rough edit on "The LC hub" video.

The plan is that they will be ready by mid-July and will be uploaded to the Learning Commons webpage and elsewhere.

LC Hub signage – (M. Robertson)

M. Robertson, N. Majekodunmi and T. Scott met with Amy Poon of CSBO to discuss the Learning Commons' signage on the second floor of the Scott Library as it is not clear when you enter the library at what point are you are actually in the Learning Commons itself. Amy produced three different options (variations of a theme). Collaboratory and Salon signs mirror a speech 'bubble' indicating conversations are allowed. Suggestions: shrink the "Welcome to", add a definite article "the" and make it more proportionate to "Learning Commons".

3. Discussion:

Peer mentoring – (M. Robertson and N. Majekodunmi)

Peer mentoring could take place in the planned flexible classroom in phase 2 of the LC renovation. It was determined that we need to ensure that there are enough activities/events/workshops to justify its construction. However, we do not want to position it that this room is available to all tutorials/lectures.

M. Robertson spoke with Brian Poser who is involved with the peer mentoring subcommittee. His involvement also includes the Mature Student First-Year Experience AIF Project. He believed there was synergy regarding using the room for mature students as they tend to come to only a few places on campus because their time is limited. If the program used this space as a home base for them, the Learning Commons would be able to provide ample support. Brian will be hiring four or five peers to assist with research help.

M. Robertson met with Martha Rogers from the Faculty of Health (and Master of Stong College). There are two possibilities for continuing use of this space:

- 1) Health Aid – meets every 2 weeks. Having them in that space would have them identify with it and raise awareness for their programming.
- 2) Supplemental instruction in Kinesiology and Psychology stats. Meets weekly for two hours.

N. Majekodunmi discussed the Centre Student Success workshops. Another possible opportunity for collaboration is with the Stong Write to Succeed Program. The Learning Commons could greatly assist with research skills. They are hiring in July and will be training in August. They could collaborate with us regarding how we can contribute to

their training procedures and are interested in research portion of our workshops.

It was suggested that we can be involved in other programs happening in the flexible classroom by providing training and giving presentations. The expectation would need to be that if programs wish to use the flexible classroom there would need to be some relationship with the Learning Commons partners.

At this point, the intent is to test interest and building a case for the flexible classroom which would help justify funding. Next year, the committee can start building connections but the room may not be build for a year (or even two).

M. Robertson will also be initiating discussions with Associate Deans in LA&PS.

4. Learning Commons goals 2012-2013:

N. Majekodunmi reviewed the past events of 2011-12 which included a first year celebration, vigorous promotion and marketing, inclusion of advertising in college handbooks, and funding from AIF for the Virtual Learning Commons. We also created some new collaborative workshops: S. Bury worked with the Career Centre. P. Warren worked with ILC to create transition workshops and the video project. M. Robertson and D. Twombly evaluated the website.

Looking ahead -

In preparation for her new position as Chair, N. Majekodunmi, proposed that the committee draft goals for the upcoming year.

Ideas generated from brainstorm:

- Explore partnerships with peer mentorship programs.
- Partner with Teaching commons and build relationship (Ceila Popovich will be on LC Committee next year.)
- Continue work on Virtual Learning Commons.
- Professional Development - have an end of year retreat. Esp. for new partners / interests.
- Explore end of year conference for the York community on LC and academic literacies
- Professional Development – higher order core values plus definition of roles. Have a Learning Commons conference and opening it to people from outside the Learning Commons Community.

- Subcommittee suggested a September retreat for a pre-assessment - an excellent way to kick off the start of a new academic year.
- Bring more info from the two subcommittees to the forefront to foster better communication between the two.
- Invite Subcommittee members to attend Learning Commons meetings as guests.
- Does the Learning Commons provide a forum for subcommittees? The subcommittees need support from us.
- Assessment of Learning Commons services in the Hub.
 - Perceptions of the LC, what it offers
 - Assessment of impact.
 - Need to start small... choose one aspect that is impactful but also contained.
- Learning Commons supports for graduate students/faculty
 - 'Research Commons'?

Topic Voted on	Votes	Comments
Peer Mentorship Program	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - explore possible connections - explore possible pilot collaboration with one group (ACMaps?Health Aid Network?) - Discuss expectations/ create guidelines around collaboration
Professional Development	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retreat / connections – teaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September? • Workshop related collaboration - Core values - Communication - Learning Commons (end of term/end of year) - peer mentorship / partners (AcMaps, etc.
Teaching Commons Partnership	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional development Collaboration with specific initiatives
Evaluation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LC Hub Space/Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction using the space • Use of Service / Perception • Do students understand what the LC is? • Space? • Website? • Impact - What to do with workshops?
Internal Communication/ LC meetings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunities for LC subcommittees to exchange information/have discussions Subcommittees:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Faculties • Virtual Learning Commons -Certain LC Meetings – invite all members on Subcommittees - Guest Speakers - focus on Subcomm. projects on LC agenda
Services for Graduate students/Faculty?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming (grant writing?) • Space? • Partnering with FGS

It was noted that although the top 3 goals for 2012-2013 focused on Peer Mentorship Program, Professional Development, and Teaching Commons Partnership, the Committee may still wish to explore working on some of the other goals not voted on.

5. Scheduling meetings - N. Majekodunmi:

- Make our meetings 2 hours instead of 1.5.
- Upcoming meetings to be scheduled for the 3rd week of August

6. Other Business:

- Membership – would likely include John Spencer, Chair of Writing in R. Sheese’s stead. One more member from Writing is needed.
- Two new writing instructors to be working with subcommittees: Stephanie Bell and Andrea McKenzie
- P. Warren is Chair for Workshops Subcommittee. Dana Craig is new to the sub-committee. Shirley Gossack and Cathy Boyd-Withers remains on the committee.
- P. McFarlane will join the Virtual Learning Commons Steering Committee to replace Mona Frial-Brown.
- C. Popovic will be joining from Teaching Commons

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm