Learning Commons Committee

Mon. March 3rd, 2014
Location: 503, Scott Library
http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons_committee/

Agenda

1. Notes of January 22nd, 2014

2. Business Arising

3. Information Items
   - Update on LC Reading Group

4. Discussion:
   - LC Retreat Debrief
     Please review the retreat notes and come prepared with 2 ideas you thought were striking or interesting from the World Café exercise. *Outcome: Decide on some things we would like to work on or make priorities.*

   - Study Hub
     Learning Disabilities Services has approached the LC with an idea for a possible collaboration. Outcome: Decide if we would like to help develop the Study Hub idea, and if so, how?

   - Assessment of Learning Commons @ Scott Library
     Consider whether to undertake an assessment of the LC Hub before the end of term.

   - LC partners communication
     How can we improve communication amongst the members of LC partner units who are not part of the LC Committee? Would it be helpful to have a listserv for this purpose?

5. Other Business?

Learning Commons Committee

Mon. March 3, 2014
1:00 – 3:00 pm
Location: 503, Scott Library

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

Present: M. Robertson, K. Grewal, A. McKenzie, D. Twombly, R. Sidhu

Regrets: T. Scott, P. Warren, C. Salole, P. MacFarlane, S. Bury

1. Notes of January 22nd, 2014 were accepted.

2. **Business Arising**

3. **Information Items**

    Update on LC Reading Group – M. Robertson reported on the first LC Reading Group meeting on Feb 3rd on the topic of Information Literacy & Sense-making. Although the group was small, the discussion was excellent. Mark suggested creating an LC list-serve in order to reach out to a wider group beyond committee members to staff and faculty from the LC partner units. There was support for this proposal.

    M. Robertson invited members to consider hosting a reading group. Anyone with ideas for topics may volunteer to select readings and host a discussion. The focus of the topics should have relevance to the general area of academic literacies. Andrea McKenzie suggested the topic 'Academic Honesty' as a possible topic for some time in the fall.

    SPARK Update – M. Robertson and A. Taves met with David Northrop, Director of Research, ISR (Institute for Social Research) to discuss strategies for assessing SPARK. One option explored was to introduce SPARK to students who have never used it and have them complete tasks and fill out a 30 minute survey re: usability. 3 to 6 months there could be follow up with these students to inquire whether they had used SPARK or had recommended it to others.

    Other ideas: include a question related to SPARK in campus wide surveys such as NSSE or the retention survey in order to gauge how many students use SPARK.

M. Robertson noted that Janet Morrison has offered to split the cost with the Libraries.

Next steps: obtain a proposal and quote from ISR for an assessment strategy.

4. Discussion:

Study Hub – Maureen Haig from Learning Disabilities has approached the LC with an idea for possible collaboration. Background: students with learning disabilities may qualify to receive funding for one-on-one tutoring, however, students are not provided with a list of tutors they can approach. LD would like to provide something to students to help them identify a tutor in relevant areas (specific skills or areas of subject content). LD has created an online Study Hub that would allow students to identify service, resources, study groups and tutors. Tutors and study group could also post.

Discussion: LC members were keen on the study groups section. Could we further develop the Study Hub to allow students to fill out a check list of needs, which would be used to suggest resources to them. However, concerns were expressed about having a role in promoting commercial tutors without any guarantee of quality or ethics. In addition, we would want students to first avail themselves of services provided by the university. The LC would be keen to collaborate on further developing this tool if the tutor posting function were removed or at least inaccessible to students who were not eligible for tutor funding. M. Robertson will relay this to Maureen Haig.

Assessment of Learning Commons @ Scott Library – M.Robertson and K. Grewal have drafted a LC survey in Survey Monkey. Members were invited to provide feedback on the draft. Suggestions included:

- create a draft LC survey which would include specific questions about the services it provides i.e. what things are working or not working
- administer survey in late March and again in Sept.
- keep it short
- have a comments section where students can write comments
- specific questions related to workshops & drop in desks
- distributing the survey after a workshop – where the return rate would be 90%
- using the survey monkey – the return rate would be 3%
- distributing flyers listing the url and having the students fill it out on their own initiative

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm