

Learning Commons Committee

March 5, 2013 10 am - 12 pm

Room 503, Scott Library (5th floor)

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



Agenda

1. Notes from January 21, 2013 meeting
 - Business arising
2. Information items
3. Peer Mentoring discussion
 - *Goal: to develop a proposal for a pilot peer mentoring program to launch in September 2013*
4. Subcommittee reports
 - Faculty (Sophie Bury)
 - Workshops (Peggy Warren)
5. Scheduling next meeting
6. Other Business?

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Notes

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Present: S. Bury, J. Dupuis, N. Majekodunmi (Chair), A. McKenzie, C. Salole, E. Sims, T. Scott, P. Warren

Regrets: P. MacFarlane, C. Popovic, J. Spencer, D. Twombly

1. Notes from January 21 meeting were approved with a note to the misspelling of A. McKenzie's surname.

2. Information items:

- **Undergraduate Research Fair** (P. Warren)

Congratulations were extended to P. Warren (Co-Chair) and S. Bury (Steering Committee member) for their work on the first Undergraduate Research Fair. It was well attended (300 guests) by faculty members, students and presenters' friends and relatives. Some Learning Commons members contributed to the success of this initiative; including J. Spencer and T. Scott (advisors), D. Twombly (co-presented workshops on poster presentations). The Fair Steering Committee will meet to analyze feedback and will work on next year's proposal (which would ideally include the Faculties of Sciences and Engineering and Health). A workshop on writing an abstract would be ideal and A. McKenzie expressed interest in teaching such a workshop next year. E. Sims expressed interest in having the Teaching Commons interview faculty members on the Fair Steering Committee and student participants about what they learned. The Fair Steering Committee will consider developing an e-journal for inviting submissions of revised papers.

- **Learning Commons Hub Services** (N. Majekodunmi)

Writing Instruction in the Learning Commons Hub will end on March 30 and Learning Skills Services will end on March 28. Now is the time to consider possible summer hours for these services. N. Majekodunmi will follow up on summer services in the LC Hub.

3. Discussion:

Peer mentoring – (N. Majekodunmi)

Goal: to develop a proposal for a pilot peer mentoring program to launch in September 2013

N. Majekodunmi reviewed the results from the Jan. 21 meeting's brainstorming session on

possible models for peer mentors in the Learning Commons. A draft proposal was distributed. Members were asked to provide feedback regarding the proposal and to ultimately endorse the plan. The plan involves hiring 2 Learning Commons Ambassadors to provide roving referral to Learning Commons services and workshops, providing technical/computer help, promote/market the Learning Commons inside and outside the LC and providing the student perspective/eye to improve the LC. The proposal considers some of the challenges identified in the last meeting; namely a clear demarcation of peer duties and the duties of professional staff and other library staff members. Suggestions included explicitly stating that students will not teach workshops, as well as including a note on evaluating the pilot.

P. Warren suggested one future possibility to explore is the use of Faculty of Education students to help in building a training program.

Next steps: N. Majekodunmi will revise the proposal and email to Committee members for further feedback and approval. Upon approval, N. Majekodunmi and J. Dupuis will consult with Learning Commons units for possible sources of funding.

4. Scheduling meetings: A Doodle poll will be emailed shortly to schedule a May meeting.
5. Subcommittee Reports:

Workshops (P. Warren)

P. Warren provided background on the history and goals of the integrated Workshops Subcommittee. A handout on the Sub-committee's goals and activities for 2012-13 were distributed. It was noted that some members of the Subcommittee were highly involved in an AIF project for mature students. P. Warren stressed that workshop attendance was high when "hooked" into something (such as co-sponsored by the Centre for Student Success during Co-curricular Days). Next step would be to look at hosting a professional development session for LC partners who teach about citing sources (currently offered by Writing, Learning Skills and the Libraries). P. Warren will like to meet with N. Majekodunmi and J. Dupuis to discuss the future of the Workshops Subcommittee.

Faculty (S. Bury)

Report will be deferred to the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm