

# Learning Commons Retreat

February 20, 2014

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Location: 503, Scott Library

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



## Agenda

1. Introductions & Welcome
2. Learning Commons: Where We've Come Mark Robertson (Libraries)
3. LC: The Partners' Perspectives  
Ron Sheese (Writing)  
Carolyn Cannon (Career Centre)  
Sarah Coysh (Libraries)  
Mona Frial-Brown (Learning Skills)  
Robindra Sidhu (Teaching Commons)
4. World Café All
5. Summary and Wrap-Up
6. Light Lunch

### 1. Introductions: (20 minutes)

This will be brief and will just allow everyone in the room to know who the other is, and the experience they bring with them to the retreat.

### 2. The LC: Where We've Come: (20 minutes)

The Learning Commons is now about 6 years old! We will open the retreat with a look back at the journey of the Learning Commons. This will allow all participants, whether new or long term, to get a sense of the milestones and accomplishments of the Learning Commons. All participants will be given the opportunity to contribute to the journey map.

### 3. LC: The Partners' Perspectives (20-30 minutes with discussion)

This will be individual presentations from four of the key members of the Learning Commons – one from each of the following areas will give a brief 5 minute overview to the role their unit/department has played in the development of the Learning Commons: the Writing Department; Libraries; Learning Skills Services; and, the Career Centre.

### 4. World Café: (75 minutes)

The World Café methodology is a format for hosting large group dialogue, and has therefore been agreed to be used as the methodology for this retreat. The process involves:

- a. Four rounds of conversations centred around four different questions. Each question has a different group sitting at each table. The entire process will take place over 1-1.25 hours, with each group rotating to a different table, with a different question to focus on.
- b. Each question is designed for the specific context and desired purpose of the retreat. (questions attached in Appendix 1)
- c. Participants will be writing and adding on to their view points and ideas on each of the flipcharts at each of the table groups. There are no right or wrong answers
- d. Each round will be reduced in time, as the more groups that have responded to a question, the less there may be to contribute to it.

### 5. Debrief and Discussion: (30-45 minutes)

Once each group has had the opportunity to respond to each of the questions, we will post all the flipcharts on the wall, and give time to all the participants to circulate and see how far each one developed. We will then spend time debriefing each of the questions, so that participants can share their insights or other results from the conversations they had in their own groups. Should time allow, we will focus on prioritizing some of the outcomes of each of the questions.

## Appendix 1

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World Café: Consider what you heard and stories told during the opening sessions, as you respond to these questions:

1. Strengths: What have we been doing really well as a Learning Commons, and that we are appreciated for?
2. Opportunities: Where do we currently see opportunities for the Learning Commons to make change for the better?
3. Aspirations: Where do we ideally want the Learning Commons to go in the future (eg. 5 years from now)?
4. Needs: What would we need to make the Learning Commons the best possible support for student learning?