

Learning Commons Committee

September 26, 2013

10:00 – 11:30 am

Room 503, Scott Library (5th floor)

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



Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Information items
 - Learning Commons Partners visits (Mark)
 - Learning Commons Ambassadors (Kalina)
3. Discussion:
 - Learning Commons half day retreat (Mark)
Would we like to hold a retreat? Co-curricular days (Oct. 30-Nov 1)
 - Learning Commons Branding (Mark and Jocelyn Lagerquist)
Marketing & Communications York is standardizing York branding. The Libraries' Communications Officer, Jocelyn Lagerquist, will be joining us to discuss implications for the LC branding.
4. Subcommittee reports
 - Faculty Sub-committee (Sophie Bury)
 - Virtual Learning Commons/SPARK (Mark)
5. Scheduling next meeting
6. Other Business?

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Present: S. Bury, K. Grewal, J. Lagerquist, P. MacFarlane, A. McKenzie, M. Robertson (Chair), C. Salole, T. Scott, E. Sims,

Regrets: D. Twombly, P. Warren

1. M. Robertson was welcomed back by the committee members after his one year sabbatical.

2. Information items:

- **Learning Commons Partners visits (Mark)**

M. Robertson held discussions with each partner unit (Career Centre, Learning Skills, Teaching Commons, Writing Dept.) to gain perspectives on the direction of the Learning Commons. A list of themes, suggestions, ideas to do and work on were compiled and will be shared at the next meeting.

- **Learning Commons Ambassadors (K. Grewal)**

The York Libraries, has hired two Learning Commons Ambassadors (LCA) for fall 2013. To date the Learning Commons Ambassadors have served as promoters of the Learning Commons philosophy by blogging on particular issues, helped with student printing issues, and directional questions etc. but there is still a lack of structure around what the students would do to occupy the rest of their time.

Some ideas that were proposed:

-To help with spreading the Learning Commons philosophy, the Learning Commons Ambassadors could speak to first year students which would help in increasing awareness of library services and resources and serve as a "voice" for their fellow students.

-Assist with the planning and implementation of library events or events across campus.

-The Learning Commons Ambassadors could team up with the RedZone Ambassadors. As students come by, the Learning Commons Ambassadors could briefly describe the academic supports and services offered by the Learning Commons in order to facilitate more awareness of the library services.

-With the upcoming launch of the Virtual Learning Commons the Learning Commons Ambassadors could assist with the event by giving away swag. Also, conversation could be generated by the Learning Commons Ambassadors and students about the Learning Commons philosophy.

-Help manage student lineups at the Writing hub. The Learning Commons Ambassadors could screen students and re-direct them if they are in the wrong line up or take down their info if they are not able to get an appointment.

3. Discussion:

- **Learning Commons half day retreat Co-curricular days** (M. Robertson)

M. Robertson suggested a half day retreat during Co-curricular days in order to facilitate discussion across the units or for anyone who wants to talk, engage in the conversation about where they see the Learning Commons going from here. The general feedback was great but it was suggested that it happen the 2nd week of November or the first couple weeks in January.

It was also suggested that prior to the retreat happening, 2 brown bag sessions could happen with some vision groups. M. Robertson to follow up.

- **Learning Commons Branding** (J. Lagerquist)

Marketing & Communications York is standardizing York branding. J. Lagerquist discussed how as York develops its brand, it is critical that existing logos and icons be retired and that any new materials and websites must display the new brand. Since the Learning Commons logo is not a York logo it needs to be retired.

Two suggestions were made:

Contact York Studio and be placed on a waiting list. A graphic designer will help with implementing these changes free of charge or contact Ali from LCS who could assist in switching the template. The website will change but the content will be the same.

4. Subcommittee reports

- **Virtual Learning Commons/SPARK** (M. Robertson)

The official launch will take place on Oct. 16, 2013. News about the launch will be displayed on LCD screens, on YFile and web buttons will be inserted on websites. Partners and faculty members could request more information on how they can include SPARK. On Oct. 17 & 18 SPARK will be launched at the library branches. Swag and demonstrations will be given.

- **Faculty Sub-committee** (S. Bury)

S. Bury distributed the Faculty Subcommittee Report. The group mainly focused on the AIF project "Supporting Academic Literacy Instruction Within Courses". The Learning Commons has partnered with the Teaching Commons to work with the faculty to focus on academic literacies in the classroom. The goal is to have a summer institute in place for summer 2014. The results from the focus groups informed programming of the summer institute. S. Bury and R. Sheese presented Teaching Commons brown bag session on developing students' critical skills. They also participated in a course design event at York which will focus on academic literacy and how to integrate AI into the curriculum. The course design event at York brown bag session will take place on Oct. 16th.

5. **Scheduling next meeting**

A doodle poll will be sent out for some new meeting dates.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.