

Learning Commons Committee

March 12, 1-2:30

Room 503, Scott Library (5th floor)

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



Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Notes of Dec. 2nd, 2015
3. Business Arising
4. Information:
 - May Teaching & Learning Month
5. Discussion:
 - Numeracy
 - SPARK Survey
6. Subcommittee reports
 - Virtual Learning Commons/SPARK (Adam)
 - Student Engagement & Support Subcommittee (Mark)
7. Other Business

Learning Commons Notes

March 12, 2015

Present: D. Twombly, G. Maheux-Pelletier, T. Mgwigwi, M. Robertson, R. Sheese, A. Taves

Regrets: P. MacFarlane, I. Maimets, T. Scott

1) Welcome

Members of the committee were welcomed by the chair

2) Notes

Notes of December 2nd, 2014 were approved.

3) Business Arising

Study Hub

Mark noted that Study Hub is up and running and users need to login with their passport York accounts to have access. Some of the issues/questions raised were whether students can find each other online in cases where TAs are not available so they can assist one another. The Study Hub can also be connected to YUConnect projects.

Experiential Education (EE) Workshops

The committee discussed ways which we can support students taking courses with an EE component and what competencies we might be looking at. Since the Learning Commons does not have direct links to EE we might consider hosting some EE activities. Mark will have a follow meeting with Julie and Sue Vail. The Writing Department on the other hand can offer modified workshops that focus on writing reflection papers as this exercise forms part of some EE courses. The committee also needs to know what courses around campus involve EE so that these workshops can be promoted properly.

Learning Commons Website

The Student Engagement and Support Working Group has taken the responsibility of the website and they are currently working on it.

4) Information

Mark announced that May has been declared Teaching and Learning month. So far there are two presentations that are being prepared:

Strengthening Student Success by Rethinking the Teaching of Undergraduate Research Skills. To be presented by Dana Craig and Stephanie Quail. Date to be confirmed.

SPARK in Action: Experiences of York Instructors with Embedding SPARK in Undergraduate Courses, Activities, and Assignments for Better Results. To be presented by ???. Date to be confirmed

5) Discussion:

Numeracy skills: The Student Engagement and Support Working Group has been discussing the issue of numeracy skills for students. There are some librarians and faculty around campus who are interested in this concept. This is not for Math or Statistics students but it is about helping students make sense of numbers.

SPARK Survey: To date, there are 227 responses to the survey. Most of the respondents are undergraduate students. The results of the survey show that the most popular modules are Essay Structure and Research Strategies. The Academic Integrity tutorial seems to be driving the most traffic to SPARK. There are lots of encouraging responses from the students where they were asked open ended questions about their views about SPARK.

6) Subcommittee Reports

Virtual Learning Commons/SPARK

Adam announced that the old Academic Integrity Quiz is to be taken down as LTS would like to retire the old software. A note will be posted on the site to notify users about the information being out of date.

Student Engagement and Support Working Group

Issues that are being discussed by the group are Numeracy Skills and Experiential Education. The Strategic Plan has been very useful for the group to help inform their direction. Membership now consists of one graduate student and a search is underway for an undergraduate student member. The group is also trying to gather ideas about 1st year Experience strategies around campus and professional development sessions. Some of the activities will take place after the CUPE strike is over and the group might organize something for graduate students to welcome them back.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.