

Learning Council Activity Report 2016-2017

Submitted June 2017

Summary

Council work and activities included continuing our work plan across two focused areas: 1) COPPS review, and 2) draft the Learning Plan. The council also engaged with invited colleagues to help inform our work and work planning, and conducted discussions around meeting procedures and order.

COPPS Review

A COPPS subcommittee (Dawn DeWolf, Phil Martinez, Marleena Pearson, and Jim Salt) has made some progress in its continued effort to evaluate policies and procedures and make recommendations for policy creation, removal, or refinement. The council has discussed policies on faculty authoring textbooks and email communication.

Focused work on policy creation has been limited due to demands of Learning Plan development, and barriers to systematically evaluating policies. The Learning Council strongly advocates for a reliable means to advance policy review that includes institutional tracking of edits, deletions, or reclassification (e.g. from policy to procedure).

There are three policies that are under active review and/or creation:

1. Instructor hours on campus – the council is fact-finding on issues regarding the historical basis of this policy, including labor and legal consideration and precedent
2. There is no policy on grade appeals, so a subcommittee has convened to develop a policy
3. Credit for prior learning – this policy is in need of updating and is a Learning Council priority

Learning Plan

Our structure subcommittee met through fall term and then the Learning Council brought continued development into scheduled meetings. Members developed guiding principles and began to draft a structure that aligns with the format of the Strategic Plan. The Chair attended governance council meetings and met with the A-Team to get feedback on guiding principles, which were used to form draft objectives and actions. We created a “Conversation Kit” with assistance from ASA staff and hosted three open conversations. Here are some of the major themes from our conversations:

- Why does Lane need so many plans?
- Who is our audience?
- How will this improve, effect, or change my work?
- What is this for?

There is a common perception that our institutional planning is duplicative, redundant, broad, and abstract. These perceptions add to pervasive confusion about what plans are for, whom plans are for, and how plans will help guide meaningful innovation,

sustainability, and change at Lane. The Learning Council strongly advocates for increased reciprocal communication between the councils and strong leadership and institutional supports and actions that improve the role, utility and value of governance councils that exemplifies effectiveness in shared governance.

As we move forward with our efforts as a council to develop a plan, we will look to the collective intelligence and experience of divisions and departments to help create intersections that will be meaningful to students and our work. The Learning Council moved and approved a motion that department planning documents include information to aid alignment with the Learning Plan, specifically the Learning Plan objective: *Implement systematic improvement processes that evaluate and improve teaching and student learning and the learning environment.* This shift in planning will allow the council to listen to the collective intelligence of departments and divisions and construct a living document with accessible language that ensures we are engaged in continuous quality improvement and innovation in the teaching, learning, and the learning environments.

Other Council Activities

Several groups presented to the council on processes and plans related to learning and learning resources. Groups who presented include: Academic Program Review, Finance Council, Tech Council (G-Suite), Assessment Team, and Institute for Sustainable Practices, Student Affairs Strategic Plan. The council has also engaged in discussions around Achieving the Dream initiatives, and accreditation updates and outcomes.

We retained most members: Leslie Stine and Shawn Goddard discontinued committee membership. The council currently has 1 opening for a classified staff and one opening for a student. We also receive excellent support from Anna Kate Malliris in taking minutes and linking relevant council documents on the council webpage.

Contributors:

Christina Howard

Approved by Learning Council, June 9, 2017