

Ed Tech Meeting
March 5, 2013

Present: Gary Reiness, Maureen Healy, Tim Mechlinski, Yung-Pin Chen, Mark Dahl, Adam Buchwald, Kelly Wainwright, Justin Midyet, Chel Pennock

Proposed Teaching & Learning Center

Our last discussion was to go out and get ideas. Mark reported on the 3 themes (academic success, academic enhancement, faculty development). Gary Reiness is getting faculty input on the concept.

Gary asked if it will be targeted toward faculty or students or both? What will it look like? Virtual/web page or physical space? We are still looking into what everyone's interests are? Does this committee want to be part of that? What would it mean to have it? What will it be like? Separate centers for students and faculty?

Mo asked where the initiative or idea of bundling the existing centers comes from? And the idea that it would enhance each by bringing them together? Whether the idea is that we're going to do this and let's figure out how to do it best, or are we at the stage of asking if we should we do this? Gary mentioned that we do a lot of different student support programs and that many institutions have them centrally located. He personally thinks we should do this and doesn't feel that we offer enough formal support for teaching.

Adam feels that we would get administrative efficiencies by having the pieces centrally located; it allows money to be devoted more to program than to resources. There is talk of one program manager to help organize it all and run it.

Tim is skeptical about co-location of services as a change agent. Then again, maybe having groups more centrally located might help with better collaboration (such as with the writing center understanding what faculty is expecting).

Yung-Pin asked about physical space? Gary responded that space hasn't been decided yet; the library or Albany have been discussed. They are looking into if all spaces are being used as best as can be or if some can be re-purposed.

Would it be helpful if this committee surveyed the faculty to gather input? This group could help define the resource lab and what resources would be desired? Does this group want to take that on?

Tim is wary to do a survey because we don't have enough defined variables to measure and the faculty is over-surveyed already. Maybe more exploratory interviews. Representatives from this group could go to departmental meetings, etc.

Mo asked if there is a timeline by which all opinions should be in? Gary pointed out that obviously nothing can be done with it until summer, but there is certainly time for concerns to be addressed. Mark has been asking for a vision statement that can be used to discuss it with different departments.

Tim felt that there is no need to hit every department; after hitting a few, we will start getting the same answer. Mo suggested that she, Tim & Yung-Pin split up the departments to meet with them for about 15 minutes. Tim hopes this center would be a great resource for adjuncts, that they tend to get less support.

Mark suggested they may want to have an open session for the people who aren't involved in specific meetings. Gary likes the idea for them to gather information from the departments.

Book budget

The acquisitions budget has been approved, and the budget for next year will be flat (better than a cut, but no room for inflation). We will be able to make it work with a few more cuts to our journal subscriptions as we have enough data from previous journal cut rounds to know what to cut. It won't be as large of a process as last year. It will be a mixture of cuts to hard copy and electronic journals. The book budget will be nominally the same.

New librarian positions

The library was approved to hire two new librarian positions. One is a science/data services librarian who will focus on science education and help students with research projects, but will also have a lot of knowledge for how to find data sets across disciplines. Finding data sets is an information literacy aspect of which we have more need. Tim mentioned that the math skills center does not support statistics very well. Mark suggested bringing that up with Margo. The other position is Special Collections Librarian to help students in the archives. It will be an archival position as before but will also be a liaison to a few humanities departments.