McMaster Open Educational Resources (OER) Committee

Monday, February 11, 2019, 11:00am - 12:30pm

Mills Library, Connections Room L113

In attendance: Catherine Anderson, Stephanie Bertolo, Nancy Bouchier, Nidia Cerna, Joanne Kehoe, Fiona O’Connor, Olga Perkovic, Leeanne Romane, Liam Stockdale, Jennifer Williams

Regrets: Tim Nolan, Jo-Anne Petropoulous

Guest: Urszula Sitarz

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome
   a. Introductions - we went around the table to introduce (or re-introduce) everyone to each other.
   b. Approval of December 3, 2018 minutes - everyone approved with no changes.
   c. Other items for agenda? No new additions raised.

2. OER Committee updates
   a. OER LibGuide (Olga) - Olga has had the OER Committee graphic updated and has added a membership list document to the page. Catherine indicated a preference for “Teaching Professor” for her title - Olga will make the change. All were happy with the content and current layout..
   b. CARL OER meetings and call for participation (Olga) - CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries) is an organization that represents 31 institutions, including 29 of the largest university libraries across Canada, as well as Library and Archives Canada and National Research Canada, National Science Library. CARL is looking to establish a Community of Practice for OER in Canada. They have their sights on three initiatives. The first being around two expressions of interest calls that were circulated on Dec. 21, 2018, one for a visiting program officer for OER and the second for members for a CARL OER Working Group. Olga applied for the Working Group and was supported by Vivian Lewis, the University Librarian. They expected to fill 12 spots; a large number of applications were received. The second initiative was creating a Slack workspace. The third was to hold two meetings. One was the “JumpStart” meeting scheduled for Jan. 29, 2019. This was held at Ryerson; Olga attended virtually. Over 35
librarians across Canada attending virtually and approximately 25 librarians attended in person. In the 90 minute meeting, CARL representatives gathered feedback on their ideas for a Slack workspace, organizing a one-day roadshow and/or organizing a three-day intensive bootcamp. Most agreed with the Slack workspace creation, and the one-day roadshow, however, several participants commented that the three-day bootcamp initiative may be too intensive. CARL is holding a second meeting in May, in Vancouver, titled “Advancing Open.” Olga is attending this meeting in tandem with the Library Publishing Forum annual conference, which is happening that week as well. The CARL “Advancing Open” meeting will be a one and a half-day event, exploring ways to foster open scholarship in Canada.

UPDATE: Olga was successful in her application! She is now part of the CARL Working Group - Congrats to Olga!

3. eCampusOntario Project updates (Joanne)
   a. Open Rangers roundup report - once per season, eCampusOntario hosts an Open Rangers update virtual meeting. A reminder that Open Rangers consist of two or three representatives from post-secondary institutions across Canada who work to promote OER on their campuses. [McMaster’s Open Rangers are Joanne and Olga]. The most recent meeting took the form of a roundtable scheduled for the end of January. Many updates were shared during the roundtable. Joanne shared some of the highlights at the meeting e.g. the University of Windsor is doing a call for OER development with $5,000 grants being offered through their teaching and learning centre. A lot of activities were reported for Open Education Week, March 4 - 8, 2019. Ryerson University has a speaker and open textbook author joining them from the University of Buffalo, School of Medicine; Brock is having a panel discussion; Western is having a teaching day (faculty workshops, development of OER, Pressbooks, CC licensing); University of Ottawa is having a keynote speaker from OUSA (Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance); York is running a session on Pressbooks in tandem with a display of open textbooks. Lastly, UoIT is inviting Rajiv Jhangiani (Kwantlen Polytechnic University) as a keynote to speak on his open textbook and open teaching practices.
   b. Open Textbook Library launch - eCampusOntario has launched their new open textbook library [https://openlibrary.ecampusontario.ca/](https://openlibrary.ecampusontario.ca/) This is where the catalogue of titles as well as resources on the creation of open educational resources can be found. The education version of Pressbooks is freely available to all working in post-secondary institutions in Ontario. This version has more plugins and tools.
available to users (H5P interactions and Hypothesis annotation tool for example) than the non EDU version of the software. The form to request a PressbooksEDU account is located at the above site.

c. H5P Sprint - We are having a mini sprint at McMaster for Catherine Anderson’s book. A small team will be working on adding H5P interactions to the open textbook. Catherine indicated that she has some corrections to make. Joanne recommended that she make these corrections directly to the education version of her textbook (the one contained in the eCampusOntario library). Catherine does not have admin access to this so Joanne will follow up to make sure that this happens.

4. MSU updates (Stephanie)
   a. Budget Committee Ask - MSU (McMaster Students Union) put together a budget submission asking for funds to support various initiatives that they have prioritized. Using the BCcampus as an example, they proposed funding for OER projects. Stephanie reported that when they followed up with the Provost, he was on board and supportive of this initiative. At the time of this meeting, they have not yet heard if the initiative has been approved. With the 10% reduction in provincial funding, they are sensing that this initiative may not be a top priority. Stephanie will follow up with the office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and report at the next meeting.

   b. Federal Lobbying Week - OUSA representatives, including Stephanie, attended Federal Lobbying Week in Ottawa this past December. One ask that they had was around Open Access with a focus on addressing educational resources covered under the copyright access policy. This was not a popular recommendation - the students wanted to remove educational materials from the copyright submission. They found this reception interesting; a working group is looking at this now. Nancy mentioned that we are in strange times as far as provincial interests go - there is an opportunity when thinking about reduction in tuition to consider how OER can help support learners through this. It would be interesting to get Donna Skelly’s ear to talk about OER. Catherine relayed this as well - with a relatively modest investment we can put money back in the pocket of students. Joanne mentioned that there is going to be an eCampusOntario Open at Scale call for development of OER under the vertical areas of Business, Nursing and Trades. This project was endorsed by the provincial government as it is being viewed as a collaboration of resource development which aligns well with their cost-savings mandate. Stephanie reported that they raised OER as an issue during Provincial Lobbying Week, November 26-30, 2018, in Toronto, and received a mixed response. The government
representatives whom they heard from did see it as a cost savings mechanism for students but also saw it as an attack on the publishing business.

5. Student Partners Project (Urszula Sitarz)
   a. Urszula Sitarz introduced herself to the group and provided a summary of the work she has been doing in consultation with Olga and Joanne around development of the “OER by Discipline Guide for McMaster University.” This is an open textbook/guidebook created in Pressbooks. Urszula has gone through various repositories, collections and databases searching for high-quality, peer reviewed, accessible open textbooks and compiling them for the Guide. Once published, the Guide will be used to advise faculty at McMaster around what OER options are available within their disciplinary context. Urszula has also tried to tag course codes to identify what materials might be considered for each of these - particularly focusing on high-enrolment classes. Much of her time has been focused on the methodology around the criteria for the selections that will be included. This will help direct and nudge McMaster educators to consider using OER, given the options that are available. The Guide was initiated by cloning a similar book from BCcampus. Urszula began the project with the Faculty of Science since this is her program of study. Fiona indicated that June 1st is the deadline for Faculty requesting textbooks for the fall term. The plan was to have the Guide available for them to consider when making their selections. It may not be an extensive list at first publication, but the idea is to continue to build on the Guide. Every department has a library representative. When the Guide is published, it will be a part of the eCampusOntario library, and the representatives may share the Guide, or relevant sections of the Guide, with their department colleagues. There are quite a few textbooks in the STEM disciplinary areas. Catherine is forwarding a link to include in the Guide. Someone asked a question around how users may make suggestions for additions to the Guide. Joanne and Olga will consider developing a Google form and/or give the library representatives access to add content. We are starting with textbooks but will strive to include other OER such as simulations, videos, assessments, etc. as the project progresses. Urszula plans to finish the Faculty of Science shortly and will start developing the other faculties over the next few months. Our aim is to complete the project by the end of April 2019. Urszula indicated that there is a lot of crossover, for example, the textbook entitled Statistics for the Humanities, is applicable across disciplinary areas. We do not have anything to show as of today since all of the
content is currently in a spreadsheet, but when we have a draft of the Faculty of Science section ready, we will share it with the members.

6. Open Education Week, March 4 - 8, 2019 (Joanne and Olga)
   a. Results of brainstorming activity - we looked at the feedback we received from the last meeting to come up with four ideas.
   b. eCampusOntario Open Education Week Planning - Olga reported that on January 14th, 2019, eCampusOntario put out a call for Expressions of Interest for up to $2,000 for Open Education Week. In consultation with Olga, Joanne submitted the proposal and we were successful in receiving the funding. We are going to receive an Open Education Week planning kit (includes digital links to posters, postcards and slide presentations as well as stickers, pens and monies to support our initiatives). The first event that we proposed is a speaker event with Catherine Anderson to take place at the University Club on Monday, March 4, 2019 over the lunch hour. A light lunch will be provided. Vivian Lewis agreed to contribute library funds to cover some of the additional expenses for the lunch. The second event will be Trivia Night at the Phoenix Crafthouse & Grill, happening on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. We will be having an extra category, consisting of ten questions, around OER. The team who gets the most correct answers will win a $50 Phoenix gift card. The third event is an open textbook library display at Mills and Thode libraries with a slideshow of information about OER. We have an open textbook library courtesy of eCampusOntario and these titles will be on display in Mills and Thode lobbies. Lastly, Olga and Joanne will be holding “Five Faculties, Five Days of Open” events where they will host an open consultation hour each day during Open Education Week in the faculties of Engineering, Science, Humanities, Social Sciences and Business. The consultations will take place in the faculty spaces and we will provide Donut Monster donuts during these one-hour drop-in sessions. Everyone agreed that these are good events that should help build understanding and awareness of Open Education. Joanne and Olga will provide an update of all of the events at the next meeting. All OER committee members are encouraged to attend and promote these initiatives. Liam mentioned that CCE (Centre for Continuing Education) is interested in exploring more around OER use and advocacy and indicated that the Program Managers at CCE might want to attend or have us come to them to present on various initiatives. Nancy Bouchier suggested that once the Guide is complete, it would be good to ask each department chair for us to have ten minutes at a department meeting to introduce the resource.

c. Other initiatives are happening around the province; a schedule of events is located at https://teamup.com/ks3qofqq7b58ee243n. There is also an international schedule at https://www.openeducationweek.org/

7. Other business - Nancy Boucher brought up the search for McMaster’s next University President. Does the library have representation on the search committee? How can we strategize ways to maximize this opportunity? We
need to ensure that there are questions around OER. Similarly, for the search for the Dean of Humanities. When there are vacancies like this we need to try to figure out how to advocate for OER awareness and use on campus.

8. Next steps - Olga will send out a Doodle poll for the fourth, and last, OER Committee meeting in April.

9. The meeting ended at 12:30 pm.