McMaster Open Educational Resources (OER) Committee

Mon. December 9, 2019, 9:30 am-11:00 am

Mills Library, Sherman Centre Meeting Room

Zoom Link for Remote Participants

Meeting Agenda

In attendance: Catherine Anderson, Nancy Bouchier, Nidia Cerna, Katrina Espanol-Miller, Joanne Kehoe, Fiona O’Connor, Olga Perkovic, Liam Stockdale

Regrets: Shemar Hackett, Jo-Anne Petropoulous, Leeanne Romane, Lynne Serviss, Jennifer Williams

1. Welcome
2. Approval of April 24, 2019 minutes - Approved with no changes.
   a. Other items for the agenda? None.
3. OER by Discipline Guide (Joanne and Olga) - Olga attended the Open Ed 2019 Conference, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2019 in Phoenix, Arizona. She presented a poster during the opening night poster reception. There was great interest in the Guide especially from the smaller U.S. colleges. The poster was also visited by attendees from BCcampus from which the McMaster Guide was modelled. The community is questioning whether the Open Ed Conference will happen again; this is currently under discussion.
   Nancy commented that she received publisher surveys and the undertext was OER. Please take a look at the Guide and contact Joanne or Olga if you have any suggestions for additions or changes. We plan to promote the Guide to the faculties and departments to encourage instructors to explore open textbooks as options for their courses. Catherine indicated there are additional entries that could be added from the Language OER Network. Joanne and Olga will look into this. The Campus Store’s next textbook deadline is March 1st, 2020. We will repeat the messaging for the Guide around this time.
4. Activity updates
   a. Open Access Week - October 21-27, 2019 (Olga). Olga organized three events. On Oct. 22nd, she conducted a session with Neera Bhatnagar, a colleague in the Health Sciences Library, on predatory publishing. Olga will be working with Neera on a campaign based on the UofT campaign in which they created a checklist on what to look for when considering publishing. Faculty and grad students also receive
unsolicited emails about conference presentations or attendance. Information about this will also be part of the campaign.

On Oct. 23rd, Olga organized two workshops entitled Supporting research: Equity and Open Government. The focus was the Open Government Portal or OGP, which is a portal of raw, federal data accessible to everyone. Four federal government representatives came to Mills Library and gave two sessions; the workshops were well attended by library staff, students and one faculty member. On Oct. 24th, there was a presentation and panel on Open Science. Olga invited Dr. Rachel Harding to speak on her research notes on Huntington's disease, posted on labscribbles.com. The panel discussion consisted of faculty and grad students. The panel discussion was very engaging and informative; Olga received positive feedback from the panelists and the attendees.

b. Open Ed 2019, Phoenix, AZ (Olga) - reported earlier.

c. TESS 2019, Toronto, ON, Nov. 18-19, 2020 (Catherine, Katrina, Olga) Funded by eCampusOntario. Olga gave a lightning talk on the McMaster OER by Discipline Guide. There was a lot of interest from attendees on creating similar guides at their post-secondary institutions. Catherine was part of a team of facilitators who led the Experimenter session on Day 2 of TESS (part of the Ontario Extend program). The session was centered around the use of H5P. Katrina was assigned to Catherine’s group and Olga participated in another group. Catherine participated in a two day H5P planning sprint in the fall term for faculty and educational developers. The keynote speaker at TESS was Donna Lanclose. You can see her keynote at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRNS7BIFDhU&list=PLZbPHTwqAgUoGnYsmIZ0fd3PrFCxO4uI&index=6 Reminder of Terry Greene’s podcast Gettin’ Air’ which features interviews with teaching and learning professionals working in open education.

d. OLC Accelerate, Orlando, FL, Nov. 19-22, 2019 (Joanne) Joanne attended the Online Learning Consortium on OER. There were a lot of sessions on open resources. SUNY presented on their website openobjectives.org, a curation of open pedagogy resources. The site includes examples and resources on how to create podcasts, blogs, etc.

e. CARL Open Education Working Group (Olga) - The group is hosting a two-day event on January 27 and 28, 2020, before the Ontario Library Association Super Conference. The event, entitled, Open Education Leadership Essentials or OeLE, will be held at Ryerson University.
Participants from universities across Canada have to be nominated by a university librarian or other library administrator. Olga will be presenting a session on open education projects and programs. All sessions have to include an activity as part of the session. CARL has arranged a series of four webinars for anyone to attend prior to OeLE.

**UPDATE**: All the webinars were recorded and are available from the CARL website.

5. OER grant program and service (Joanne and Olga)
   a. Overview and timelines - The University Library will administer $15,000 per year, for three years, beginning in 2019-2020 ($5K each from the University Library, the MacPherson Institute and the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic). Vivian Lewis’ initial ask was for $6,000 for two grants to create open textbooks and 4 grants of $750 per year for adaptation. Comparisons with other OER Grant Programs suggest that these distributions may be low. The committee members agreed and discussed other ways that the fund could be divided. We will need to write an OER Program and Service document and present the draft to the funders for approval. The draft should cover the service aspect of the program such as training workshops and other support. Nancy commented that faculty have the ability to apply for funding from McMaster’s Arts Research Board. The ARB budget is dependent on SSHRC grants (start-up, publication funds). Nancy brought up the idea of planting the seed for the OER Grant into ARB committees. Further discussions about this possibility are required.

   We need to draft the documents for the OER Grant in Jan. and Feb. if we plan to announce the grant during Open Education Week, March 2-6, 2020. This will give applicants 4-6 weeks to apply. We need to commit the funds by April 30, 2020 or, at least, award the funds by this time.

   b. See the [Kwantlen Polytechnic University example](#) for OER Grants. We will also be looking at examples from the universities of Saskatchewan, Toronto, Windsor and Queen’s. We might want to contact people from these groups to discuss their lessons learned. How do we create an environment that supports faculty who decide to engage with OER? How does the institution recognize these individuals? How does work with OER help their careers? Is this considered research? Faculty associations and unions present different environmental contexts. Catherine mentioned the example of one McMaster faculty member who attended her presentation during Open Education Week 2019 and indicated that he/she/they would love to do this [OER] work but it is not part of their job. It is important to consider how OER development has potential to impact career progress, including tenure and promotion.
Although we can make recommendations, these conversations and decisions need to happen at the senior administration level.

c. Creation of sub-group - Joanne and Olga are seeking one or two volunteers from the Committee to work with them on the grant documentation. **UPDATE**: Catherine and Katrina have volunteered to join the sub-group. We anticipate that the work will require a commitment of several meetings in January and February.

6. **Open Education Week**, March 2-6, 2020 - Apart from announcing the McMaster OER Grant, does anyone have other ideas on what we can do to celebrate this event? Joanne will reach out to eCampusOntario to determine if they will have funding similar to last year, to support this event. **UPDATE**: eCampusOntario will provide access to materials via their website. Promotional materials such as posters, stickers, pens and postcards will not be mailed to institutions as they did in previous years.

7. Other business - There was no other business. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.