McMaster Open Educational Resources (OER) Committee

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Mills Library, Connections Room, L113
Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Catherine Anderson, Stephanie Bertolo, Nancy Bouchier, Nidia Cerna, Joanne Kehoe, Olga Perkovic, Jo-Anne Petropoulos, Liam Stockdale

Regrets: Tim Nolan, Fiona O’Connor, Leeanne Romane

1. Welcome
   a. Introductions and icebreaker (Olga & Joanne)
      Olga welcomed everyone and gave an update on the history of the committee. We started as an OER Working Group - a grassroots group made up of various members. We worked on two documents (linked below) and submitted these to the Library Leadership Group (LLG) at the end of the academic year. The LLG accepted a name change and approved the documents - OER Terms of Reference document and the OER Recommendations and Activities report. Everyone introduced themselves and indicated how they came to be interested in OER.

2. OER Committee Updates
   a. OER LibGuide (Olga)
      i. This was one of the objectives from last year. Denise Smith and Olga created the OER LibGuide (LibGuides is a software that the library purchased that enables the creation of customized material for subjects). The group reviewed the content briefly with a call to provide any feedback to Olga as she is happy to expand this as needed. The guide is categorized by: OER in Ontario; OER and Faculty; OER and Students; OER Collections; our OER Committee and its working documents; and OER Resources. Also included is a live tweet stream of OER advocacy accounts (e.g., eCampusOntario).
   b. OER Terms of Reference document (All)
      i. This document provides an overview of how our group formed as well as its guiding principles for membership and scope. Recall that the group started by looking at other college and university OER working groups' terms of reference, and used these a guide for our work. In writing these terms of reference
we also ensured that we aligned it with the Forward With Integrity principles and priorities.

c. OER Recommendations and Activities Report (All)
   i. Olga referred the group to this report as an update of what we accomplished last year. In particular, she referenced page 5, which includes potential activities for this coming year. Please review and let us know if there are any other ideas we have, as this is what we will use moving forward as a guide. We see this as an evolving document. Joanne had a question around web presence for the group - Olga mentioned that the library website is focused on users and not necessarily a hosting spot for internal committee documents. Does the committee have a need for an alternate to the Google folder? Dropbox and MacDrive was mentioned, but we decided to keep with the OER Committee’s Google folder as is. We could also just add our membership to the OER Committee spot on the LibGuides. Everyone agreed and Olga will follow up on this. Nancy suggested we also put our agendas and minutes up - could link to the Google docs (view-only). All in agreement that this will be beneficial.

3. eCampusOntario Project Updates (Joanne)
   a. PressBooks EDU instance is now available as a shared service for the Ontario PSE community (faculty, staff and students). Everyone has access to this - it is the same as the free version of pressbooks with a few more bells and whistles (H5P interaction builder and Hypothes.is annotation plug-in). Joanne showed an example of H5P integration in a Fundamentals of Business open textbook. If you want to create a PressBooks EDU account email open@ecampusontario.ca. Question around possibility to create a sandbox was met with a resounding yes, feel free to play around.
   b. eCampus has partnered with Ryerson to create a searchable OER repository (textbooks plus) - news on this to come in early 2019. Will likely be rolled out in phases, but an update will be provided at the next meeting. There may be possibilities for our group to do some user testing.
   c. RFP process - the funding call that eCampus typically sends out is likely not happening this year. Probability there will be more targeted initiatives aligning to government mandate. Possibilities include development of OER for business, health sciences and trades and technologies as well as funding for sprints to develop ancillary resources to accompany open textbooks (e.g., slides, test banks, assessments).
d. Review a textbook - interested individuals who meet the criteria can become a textbook reviewer. They will be paid $200 per review. Must currently teach at a post-secondary institution in Ontario and possess a willingness to adopt an open textbook - for full criteria and info, you can apply here -
https://openlibrary.ecampusontario.ca/review-an-open-textbook/

e. If you know anyone who has adopted an open textbook, eCampus is interested in getting this information to report student savings and to help advocate for government funding around open education.

4. #TextbookBroke Campaign Update (Stephanie)
   a. Through the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA), a #TextbookBroke campaign ran in September to help build awareness of open textbooks and highlight how much students spent on textbooks. This initiative received a lot of traction - was more successful than the previous campaign held in January 2018. Social media campaign was not as successful, but they received a ton of ballots (ballots involved student’s guessing at the total cost for a stack of textbooks). Tables were staffed with students who held conversations around advocating for OER use - also had eCampus postcards for distribution. The laptop at table displayed the eCampusOntario open textbook library website. There was a lot of good feedback and some great conversations - many students did not know about open textbooks. Olga mentioned that the same eight universities participated in both campaigns - McMaster, Western, Trent/Durham, Queen’s, Laurier, Laurentian, Waterloo and Brock.

5. Open Textbook Experience (Catherine)
   a. Catherine Anderson talked about her Essentials of Linguistics open textbook. In 2014, she had switched to a blended delivery format, and had a series of videos created with support from Humanities Media and Computing. She applied for an eCampusOntario grant for adapting existing OER ($15K) to build these resources. In addition to the existing videos she authored her own complementary text and created new videos in partnership with an instructional designer and a digital media specialist from the MacPherson Institute. Timelines were very tight. She started using it for her summer 2018 course and is now using it this fall term. Students are thrilled and applauded when they are made aware of the free course materials. Videos are hosted in YouTube (set up a class channel). Students volunteered to check that the captions were accurate. Each video also has a transcript available for download. This was done in order to meet accessibility requirements but has also proven helpful for Catherine and her students when needing to review content. For each unit, there are
reflective questions and answers. The book was first published on McMaster's PressBooks instance then moved to the eCampus library. Students can download and print if needed for a small cost. Catherine's motivation was that the Pearson Linguistics text she was using kept changing and this proved frustrating for creating consistent video content. Catherine would like to ask students questions about their use and welcomes any suggestions. She mentioned that she was being considered for promotion (teaching professor) and was hoping that this will be considered. Really critical that this OER publication be recognized in the T & P process. Nancy concurred and stressed that this is something the committee needs to prioritize. How can we do this? Catherine found this whole process very rewarding - from writing, creating videos and student feedback. Question around possibility of Catherine creating a promotional video to go on the LibGuides. Nancy wondered if there was anyone in Science who has written an open textbook. Catherine indicated that there is one - Mel Rutherford - who has written OER but really wants the ability to track use. Those metrics are not only useful for faculty but could be useful for the merit process. How could we get this data from eCampusOntario? Joanne will check in to this and report back. Olga pointed out that BC was the first Canadian university to include development of OER in their tenure and promotion process. Would be great to be the second!

6. Student Partners Project (Olga and Joanne)
   a. The MacPherson Institute has a Student Partners Program - anyone on campus can apply to get student support on a project. Olga and Joanne applied and were successful. The project is the development of an “OER by Discipline Guide” for the McMaster context. The idea is to gather high-quality OER and segment them by faculty/department. For many educators it is a challenge to find high-quality OER and this guide should be of assistance. Our student, Urszula Sitarz, is working on this and we aim to have this ready by the end of April 2019. Because we are using PressBooks for this, we were able to clone an existing resource being developed by BCcampus and modify it based on the McMaster context. With this flexibility, the resource can be edited as needed. We also will be able to pull department-specific chapters to potentially present to faculty at department meetings or other events.

7. Upcoming events
   a. Open Education Conference 2018, Oct 10 - 12 (Niagara Falls, NY)
      i. Olga nd Joanne will be facilitating a roundtable on Cultivating OER Working Groups on Campuses at the Open Ed conference. We will report back at the next meeting.
b. International Open Access Week, Oct. 22 - 28
   i. Open Day @ Mac - Thursday, Oct. 25 - happening in Connections Centre, Mills Library. We will have six sessions, running consecutively. More information and full event description can be found at [https://library.mcmaster.ca/oaweek](https://library.mcmaster.ca/oaweek)

c. Open Education Ontario Summit - Nov. 11 (Toronto)
   i. Sponsored by eCampusOntario - invited two representatives (Senior Open Rangers and Rising Rangers) from each post-secondary institution with workshops and sessions around building capacity in OER in Ontario.

d. Technology Enabled Seminar & Showcase (TESS) - Nov. 12 - 13 (Toronto)
   i. Olga will be part of a panel talking about OER working group with colleagues from Queen’s, Western and Brock. Joanne indicated that the TESS registration opens on October 1st. It is a free event.

8. Other business
   a. No one had any new business to report.

9. Next steps
   a. Meeting frequency is twice a term. Everyone agreed that works and we will try to schedule these well ahead of time.