McMaster Open Educational Resources (OER) Committee

Wed., April 24, 2019, 3:00 pm-4:30 pm

Mills Library, MacPherson Classroom

Zoom Link for Remote Participants

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Catherine Anderson, Stephanie Bertolo, Nancy Bouchier, Nidia Cerna, Shemar Hackett, Joanne Kehoe, Fiona O’Connor, Olga Perkovic, Jo-Anne Petropoulos, Anastassiya Yudinsteva

Regrets: Tim Nolan, Leanne Romane

1. Welcome Anastassiya Yudintseva - a roundtable of introductions was made.
2. Approval of February 11, 2019 minutes - everyone approved the February 11th minutes with no changes.
3. OER Committee updates
   a. Open Education Week, March 4-8, 2019 (Joanne and Olga) - Joanne and Olga provided the committee with an update on the activities that took place during Open Education Week. During the entire week, there were two display tables in the high-traffic lobby areas of Mills and Thode campus libraries. The tables had printed copies of open textbooks from the eCampusOntario Open Library, a slideshow on open education displaying on monitors, eCampusOntario postcards and pens and a whiteboard for visitors to write and display postcard messages. The week kicked off with our speaker event with Catherine Anderson and Anastassiya Yudintseva. The event, entitled “Free your course: How going open can work for you and your students”, was held in the University Club on March 4, 2019. We had full attendance with 25 participants, including faculty, and lots of great discussion. Olga and Joanne also held faculty drop-ins (with a supply of fresh donuts) daily in each of the Faculties, with the exception of Health Sciences. While attendance was fairly low (10 in total), the impact may be high as those who attended were very interested in using or creating OER. The final event for the week involved the sponsorship of Trivia Night at the Phoenix Bar & Grill. We had a category of questions around Open Education and offered prizes to the team with the most correct answers. We estimate that there were approximately 120 people in attendance.
b. CARL OE Working Group (Olga) - Olga reported on her membership in the CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries) Open Education Working Group. The group will be working on a number of activities to support the creation of CARL’s open education strategy and has representatives from across Canada. The group held an introductory webinar and plans to meet in person in May. More information, including their terms of reference, can be found on their website.

4. eCampusOntario Project updates (Joanne)
   a. Open at Scale Funding - Joanne reported that there will likely be a call for funding to support the creation of OER in the areas of business, nursing and trades. More details will be shared as they are announced, but there is an expectation that this will be announced in June 2019.

5. MSU updates (Stephanie)
   a. Shemar Hackett, incoming MSU VP Education - Stephanie introduced the group to Shemar, who will be taking over MSU VP Education responsibilities for the 2019-2020 academic year. Shemar’s platform included advocacy work around increasing access to course materials for students. Everyone is very pleased that he is on the committee.
   b. Budget Committee Ask - As we reported at the last meeting, the MSU budget request to the Provost included support for the development of OER. They have not yet received word on whether or not this will be supported with funds.

6. Student Partners Project (Joanne and Olga) - Joanne and Olga reported that work continues on the OER By Discipline Guide for McMaster University. Their student partner, Ursula Sitarz, made great progress within the Faculty of Science, identifying open textbooks that align with departments, and, often at the course level, that faculty could explore as possible replacements for high-cost textbooks. They are going to be working with the Institute’s summer students on populating the remainder of the content. The publication date will likely be delayed until late summer.

7. Other initiatives
   a. From Flat to Fabulous: Creating Open Content with Pressbooks, May 2, 2019, 10:00 am-11:30 am, Mills Library, Connections Room, L113 (Joanne) - Peggy French, Program Manager with eCampusOntario will be coming to McMaster to facilitate this workshop.
   b. Explore funding for the creation of an OER grant program and service (Olga) - Olga has received encouragement from Vivian Lewis as well as Lori Goff on their support to contribute funds to an OER grant program. They are now waiting to hear back from the Provost’s office on whether or not the office will also be able to match this contribution.
c. Catherine Anderson Interview video (Anastassiya) - Ana filmed and edited this compelling video about Catherine’s experience with using her open textbook in several courses. The video was received with much enthusiasm from the committee members. Nancy indicated that we should put this video on our OER committee website. Olga and Joanne will follow up on this request.

8. Congratulations and thanks - Olga thanked our outgoing member, Stephanie Bertolo, as she moves on with her studies at another institution. The committee is grateful to her for her commitment and advocacy work. Other news included Joanne’s career growth appointment as Associate Director, Educational Technologies at the MacPherson Institute. This gives us an administrator role on the committee. Joanne is committed to elevating awareness and use of OER in her new position.

9. Other business - no additional items were added to the agenda.

10. Next steps - Olga and Joanne reported that the committee will now recess until the fall term. Stay tuned for a meeting invitation for September 2019.