Educational Initiatives Council Meeting of November 7, 2008


Absent: L. Grigsby Standfill, M. Prutsman.

Announcements:

Lynn Jones (D/M Instructional Services) and Lisa Ngo (Engineering) have been selected as the co-coordinators of the Library Instructor Development Program.

I. Library Instructor Development Program (L. Jones)

L. Jones presented the following plans and proposals for the Library Instructor Development Program. Consideration was given to staff schedules and events are planned for less busy times. Themes for the first semester have been chosen: 1) strategies for active learning in the classroom, and 2) methods for facilitating discussion in classrooms, particularly the use of questioning. The kickoff event will be an Early Bird presentation in January on the topic of active learning. Presenter will be a non-library expert from the Berkeley campus. Steve Tollefson, Robert Schlick, Ron Hassner, or one of the winners of the Distinguished Teaching Awards, are being considered as potential speakers.

The second event will be scheduled around Spring break on the topic of facilitating discussions and the use of questioning in classes. The format will be a “pecha kucha” lunchtime event, where individuals will present the essence of an article they have read, or a strategy they have used, in 6 minutes and/or 20 slides. Eight or nine presentations could be included.

For each event a short reading list will be produced and an informal brown bag discussion on the topic will be held soon after the event. A webspace will also be developed where scheduled events, reading lists, links, etc., can be posted. A small budget for modest refreshments during the early bird and lunch events is requested.

Comments/Discussion:

One “seminal” reading instead of several is recommended.

Techniques for assessing how these sessions have improved staff’s ability to teach should also be considered.

The best staff training programs regarding teaching involve staff observing each other and developing lesson plans and curriculum in collaboration. For that to happen at Berkeley, a culture of “supreme trust” is needed.
Techniques for interacting online, as well as in-house presentations and discussions should also be developed.

ACTION: When details are finalized, Lynn Jones and Lisa Ngo will send a message regarding the 1st event to allusers@, encouraging interested folks to ask to be subscribed to instruct@ list, where future messages will be sent.

II. Library and bSpace (C. Booth)

C. Booth summarized the recent staff bSpace survey results. A summary of responses can be found at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=dMPUONX6CCQjzT_2fTtpX7XlRG6XhAJI4rUiaO1hT_2bxA_3d

The responses to this survey provide a factual base of information on current activities, level of skill, and what needs to be taught or supported for more bSpace integration. Another challenge is how we can build on the liaisons’ successes in the bSpace environment.

Comments/Discussion:

Correlating the responses to questions 2 and 6 would provide useful information.

More information is needed as to which faculty are actually using bSpace. This may be difficult to obtain as ETS can tell what courses it is being used for, but has no way to determine if the faculty or a GSI create the bSpace site.

Discussion covered models and options for training staff (e.g., drop in classes, focus on skills, focus on content, etc). C. Booth wants to offer training at three levels: basic, intermediate and advanced. C. Booth also plans to do one-on-one consultations.

Collaboration with ETS is a must and underway.

Many faculty are not aware that bSpace can make their jobs easier, e.g., e-reserves, etc. This is an area that librarians can play a significant role in providing information and support.

Discussion occurred as to how best to present training and information throughout the Library, e.g., at all the Subject Councils, or if an all-staff, or other form of Library-wide meeting would be more appropriate.

ACTION: C. Booth will develop more specific details and a proposal for staff training by the next EIC meeting on December 5th.

III. Tips for Creating Online Course Guides Final Review (J. Dorner)
J. Dorner presented a revised version of the “Tips…” document originally prepared by M. Miller and J. Woolums. Both versions of the Guides can be found on the EIC wiki at: http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/wikis/EIC_WIKI/Main/LibraryCourseGuides

It was decided at the August meeting to create two “Tips….” guides, i.e, one that focused on how to think about the guide (pedagogy) and another on how to create one. This latest revision with an emphasis on pedagogy includes the addition of a longer preface, the creation of a “best practices” section, and more examples of guides from other institutions.

Comments/Discussion:

While this revised guide is useful as a starting place for tips on how to think about a course-related guide, it would also be helpful to have more information about what options exist in the “online” environment that can be used to “enhance student learning”. For example, in the online environment, one can import a video into the guide – what, where and how can that be used to enhance student learning of the information literacy concepts we are trying to achieve? Other elements to consider in designing an online course guide could include use of color (e.g., color theory and psychology for design), and the design of the page (to reduce “noise” and guide the student’s eyes to important concepts), etc.

ACTION: Members of EIC should email their comments for any other suggested revisions or changes to J. Dorner by November 10.

IV. Next Meeting of the EIC

Friday, December 5, 2008, at a NEW location: 251 Doe Library [the conference room outside the University Librarian’s Office].