Educational Initiatives Council (EIC) Minutes of December 4, 2009

In attendance:
Chair: Beth Dupuis; Members: Michael Sholinbeck, Kelly Gordon, David Eifler, Matthew Prutsman, Jennifer Dorner, Lisa Ngo, Corliss Lee, Paul Hamburg, Char Booth, Susan Edwards (minutes)

I. Spring Lightning Talks? (20 min)

The group discussed the Spring lightning talks and all agreed they were well received by both attendees and presenters. Timing was discussed – whether to do another in the spring or wait until fall. The topics were also explored, with some sense that having all new technologies wasn’t the best idea given staff shortages, etc. Instead there was a suggestion to use the opportunity for brief reminders (teasers) about resources we already have that may be underutilized and new features of existing products – “new to you” – such as enhancements to EndNote and RefWorks. The topics suggested would more closely support the mission of the EIC, and the intended audience would be anyone offering instruction or working on a public service desk.

A suggestion was also made to centrally post all the public trainings being offered in any of the libraries, and to explore the idea of a list of resource people who are willing to help others with specific tools (EndNote, etc.)

Further discussion:
- Central posting of all library trainings or workshops
- List of resource people.

Action items: Jennifer Dorner, Kelly Gordon and David Eifler will further explore/plan for a lightning talk event with a target date around April.

II. Future of TEA (Tutorial Early Adopters) group and library tutorial development (20 min)

Matthew took over the coordination of the group as the previous coordinator’s position has been lost. He no longer has time to do this, and it raises questions of whether it is sustainable given staff shortages. Each person can maintain his/her own tutorials, but is there any institutional oversight? Previously this included vetting as well as training, substantive feedback, recommendation of production software, etc. Should there be formal recognition that TA is going on hiatus – no longer vetting, developing policies, etc.?

The question was also raised of weeding the current tutorial page, Jennifer clarified that her department is still responsible for that (though only tutorials on the main page go through this vetting process, they aren’t involved in what is posted on other library pages.) In the past TEA members also had responsibility for certain tutorials, now that may not be possible.

Action items:
- Assuming a new group leader is identified, TEA group will vet tutorials before they go on the main page, but not provide training or identify topics that need tutorials.
- Jennifer Dorner will ask for a volunteer from the TEA group to assume a one-year leadership role, including bringing issues from the group to the EIC.

III. eReadings Pilot Project (30 min, Char Booth and Susan Edwards)

The goal of this project was to locate e-readings from the course syllabus as a way to outreach to faculty while leveraging library resources. We found that 40-60% of the readings on each syllabus were available electronically through the library, which can be convenient for students and also save them money. The pilot also provided an opportunity for communication with the faculty member about library instruction for his/her class, identifying later editions of material than were on the syllabus, getting early notice of items needed to purchase for reserve, and another way to talk with faculty about the importance of open access.

Questions were raised of whether scanning readings falls within fair use guidelines. Some of us have experience with other institutions who handle it differently, but at UCB we are only helping faculty or GSIs
to do their own scanning, including on the machine in Moffitt. Questions of copyright will be resolved by the new attorney and may allow for some change in current policy and practice.

There was a discussion of whether students and professors prefer paper, and there seems to be no clear consensus across (or perhaps even within) disciplines. Having the readings available electronically through bSpace does not preclude paper, of course, but it does provide the option of e-access for those who prefer it.

Further discussion: Should we buy all current textbooks? Can we explore renting them?

Action items:
- Send out bSpace survey to EIC
- Liaisons interested in participating in the pilot should contact Char Booth.

III. Outreach to Graduate Student Instructors (20 min, Jennifer Dorner)

Outreach to GSIs:

Note – this is separate from topic of outreach to graduate students in general, which will be discussed at a later meeting.

Jennifer Dorner is the liaison to Graduate Student Instruction Teaching and Resource Center. The GSI center provides training and support for the GSIs, helps them learn how to work effectively with faculty and students. It is a very robust center, has served as a model for programs across the country. Linda von Hoene is the director, and has a lot of expertise. The library is involved in their work by invitation, and has participated in workshops offered during the summer and the beginning of the year. The center provides support for the 300 level pedagogy classes – which are offered to GSIs and which they are supposed to take before they start teaching. Some of the smaller programs don’t have their own 300 classes, but College Writing program offers a class open to GSIs from a wide variety of disciplines. Ideally the GSIs take one class the semester before teaching, one while teaching. Classes have often included some component where students need to learn how to incorporate library skills into their own classes. In the past, the library has come in for those sessions. Jennifer contacted the teachers of the 300 classes, and heard back from about 50%. Only 2 asked for a follow-up with their classes. There is no way to systematically get to all classes. Approaching GSIs through their home departments seems to be more effective than working through the GSI center.

The library also works with individual GSIs and groups of GSIs teaching specific courses, and will continue to focus on those approaches – helping GSIs with their own research and talking to them about what their students might need to know about the library and library skills. Partnerships with library liaisons are key in all these cases.

Action item: Jennifer Dorner and Corliss Lee will meet with all the subject councils to discuss their roles in working with graduate students and graduate student instructors.

Announcements:
Char Booth: Library à la carte pilot will be starting for course guides in Spring semester. They are still working on integration with ERF for subject guides, and that component won’t be ready for Spring.

No meeting in January, next meeting is February 5, 2010.