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Learning Commons at HKU:
Empowering Learning, Teaching and Research through New Environments, Services and Tools

Facilitated by Dr. Anthony Ferguson, Dr. Bob Fox, Dr. Daniel Churchill and Prof. Nancy Law
The Facilitators

- Dr. Anthony Ferguson
- Dr. Bob Fox
- Dr. Daniel Churchill
- Prof. Nancy Law
About the Forum

- Initiative from the University to develop 6,000+ m² Learning Commons Space
- What Learning Common might be?
- How can we all benefit from this attractive initiative?
Learning Commons as Stimulating Knowledge Creation Environments
Learning Commons as Exploratory Environments for Innovative Pedagogies
Learning Commons as Technology Rich Environments
Learning Commons as Information Rich Environments
Learning Commons as Social and Collaborative Environments

Virtual tour http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/grid/users/firsttime/
Learning Commons as Support Services Environments
Learning Commons as Extension to our Current Environments
Learning Commons as Extension to our Current Environments
Learning Commons as Teacher Support and Development Environments
Learning Commons

Current Exercise in Perspective

Dr Tony Ferguson,
Knowledge Team Chair
University Mandate to KT

- Gather input from Campus regarding what they think should be in the LC
- Develop a vision statement to guide the architects as they design the Learning Commons
Activities thus far:

- Interviews held with each of the 10 faculties
- Interviews with student groups
- Interviews with potential service providers
- Web survey for entire campus
Findings thus far:

- Flexibility to encompass services and technologies not yet thought about or known
- Flexibility to allow all kinds of activities to take place in this facility
- Students want it to be one big Starbucks
Learning Commons
Warwick University and University of Gloucestershire
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/
http://www.glos.ac.uk/ceal/

Dr Bob Fox
Warwick University ‘Learning Grid’

- Articulates with institutional mission
- Open 24/7 364 days a year
- Term time weekly use 13,000 students mostly working on collaborative projects
- Student evaluations: ‘Flexible, relaxed comfortable spaces, sense of ownership, ‘motivating for learning’
- Run by 2 staff & 14 PT student advisors for students
- Regular ‘drop-in’ workshops mostly run by students
- Designed to facilitate individual and team based work
- Well equipped
- Collaborates with faculties
- Spawned a Biomed Learning Grid – ‘more on the way’
- No formal teaching – ‘but staff use the Grid as a stimulus for curriculum development and innovation’
Warwick University ‘Learning Grid’

• Located centrally in the university and centrally funded
• Opposite coffee and meals facilities
• Students are welcome to bring food and snacks into the Learning Grid
• Staff development centre, centre for innovation studies, careers and Vice-Chancellor’s office also located in the building
Warwick University ‘Learning Grid’

- Run by the library and a Learning Grid Manager - a qualified teacher with 5 years post secondary teaching experience
Warwick University ‘Learning Grid’

Open, light & inviting
Faculty *not* university initiated

- Fosters collaborative projects and other active learning – students and staff research *together*

- VC supports other faculties to establish own active learning centres
Comfortable, flexible, well equipped facilities in purpose built centre (1000 s.m) for student groups and staff to collaborate on projects.

Run by a FT centre manager and staffed by part-time post-grad student helpers.
Learning Spaces as a metaphor for where you can accomplish the various learning and teaching activities you need

Learning spaces + tools + professional development + training + services & support (all involve blending of physical & online)

Learning commons – a coalition of services to support learning: learning technology support & development + professional development + research on HE + library services

Catalyst:
http://catalyst.washington.edu/home.html
Learning spaces:
http://catalyst.washington.edu/learning_spaces/
The helpdesk
Teamspot
University of Washington

⇒ Digital Audio Workstation
The Digital Presentation Studio: Getting Started

1. Log into the Presentation Laptop using your UWNNetID.

2. Turn on the plasma TV.

3. Log into the Control Station using your UWNNetID.

4. On the Control Station, select the quality of your production. In order for your file to be playable on an iPod Video™, choose medium for the production quality.

5. Once the DPS Controller software has loaded, verify your affiliation with the UW. For those with more than one UW affiliation, this step will determine which server hosts your video.

6. To begin recording your presentation, click the Record/Start button.

7. When finished recording, click the Publish/Stop button.

8. Type in a one word name and click the Publish button to save your presentation, or click the Discard button to delete it if you click Publish.
Learning spaces that reflect a philosophy about learning, technology and the associated research and development

The Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT) located inside the library

The staff who develop the tools work in the same space as the staff technology support space

UW is extending their tool development to creating their own online learning management platform

http://catalyst.washington.edu/about_site.html

Governance:
http://www.washington.edu/president/tacs/
More examples of innovative learning spaces

Wallenberg Hall, Stanford University
http://wallenberg.stanford.edu/
More examples of innovative learning spaces

- Ray and Maria Stata Center, MIT

- The evolving MIT campus
  http://web.mit.edu/evolving/index.html
More examples of innovative learning spaces

Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, Princeton University
http://www.genomics.princeton.edu/topics/building.html
Discussion

- Do we need Learning Commons?
- Yes, but for what purposes?
- Is this only referring to physical place? Should the concept include Cyberspace?