

Outreach & Engagement Committee

11/08/2023

Minutes (Jessica Ballard-Lawrence)

Attendees: Celenia Graves, Cindy Ingold, Rachel Miller-Haughton, Jessica Ballard-Lawrence, Kirsten Feist, Siobhan McKissic, Sara Berthier, and Janis Shearer

Absent: Atoma Batoma, Heather Murphy

1. Approve minutes from October Meeting

<https://uofi.box.com/s/l1avr4tomb4xd9xsexhndtfrcd0wx4b0>

The minutes were unanimously approved from the October Meeting

2. Definition of quality engagement

a. Reminder to [Review existing data on Library Outreach & Engagement](#)

- Discussion took place on what quality engagement is:
- Celenia, Maria, Janis Shearer and others had a meeting with Sam Smith at KCPA regarding community outreach. The community is interested in looking at quality engagement. Opened up the opportunity for discussion of quality engagement, and the sustainability. Jessica discussed the engagement with the community, and their perspective related to the cultural centers such as BNAACC.
- Cindy, discussed there are many exhibits that her unit does in the social sciences, but the long-term work might not be sustainable.
- It was reiterated that Sam Smith from Krannert mentioned that those who are collaborating with the community should define what quality engagement is.
- Janis and Celenia reminded everyone to fill in the document by Friday for the division reports on quality engagement.
- Cindy expressed that Atoma mentioned there is more work needed with engagement.
- Cindy brought up an instruction session with Siobhan and how engaging it was to communicate to a few students and it was meaningful. Siobhan added that quality engagement is hard, and the people present should give you an idea of what that means and everyone has a different perspective. Professors have shown interest in having librarians share where the resources are. Siobhan has done multiple activities to make engagement and instruction more interactive and how to find resources. For instance, one student had never been to the library, and after the instruction session Siobhan started seeing the student in the library, and the student asked a reference question. It has opened up opportunities for future instruction.

- Kirsten - there is a common thread quality engagement has with the importance of making connections. The process might be large or small. For example, a craft project in the orange room can create a space of calm and safety that opens up opportunities for conversation.
- Celenia added in the chat: An element I'm getting is what fulfills a community need and the need is defined by the community. Not necessarily data-driven and is sustainable.
- Cindy mentioned engagement can encourage one person to communicate to another person about an engagement experience
- Janis - quality engagement changes overtime. Not seen always in the annual report how some engagement came together, nor captures how it came together, and the changes.
- Jessica discussed how the use of online/hybrid events have been helpful with connecting with large audiences. Exhibits have allowed people to learn about what our units have. Underrepresented groups see that someone cared to document them.
- Kirsten agreed with Jessica and knows some CPS colleagues have seen great success with their online or hybrid events, which are ultimately more accessible
- Celenia mentioned this conversation will continue on quality engagement in future events.
- Cindy discussed the importance of marketing ourselves, like when she attended an event and students did not realize her role as the Gender Studies Librarian. It would be good for us to market ourselves more so students have a better idea of point people for certain needs.
- Kirsten pointed out it can be challenging when looking at data to quantify the data. The actual experiences are not necessarily captured.
- Sara said engagement with students should be our primary goal and it's difficult to put that in reports. Sara welcomes suggestions for how to include that in reports. Sara also said she doesn't know how librarians work with other colleges. The dean expressed that as well.
- Cindy said it can depend on the librarian and there could be more done to explain our work.
- Jessica mentioned that some professors who librarians have worked with left, the stay at home order also affected relationships. Jessica was asked even in 2022 if the archives is still open. Some professors also aren't teaching the same classes.
- Siobhan has had similar experiences, with faculty leaving. Siobhan has also attended faculty meetings and has asked to be on the faculty meeting agenda. She has gotten on the list.
- Celenia is trying to get involved with the College of Engineering, Siobhan's suggestions were helpful about who to contact.
- Cindy mentioned the reunion tour when John Wilkin returned from the Provost. It was very helpful to hear what was going on in different units.
- Celenia said people really liked the lightning talk section for the Provost, and would love to highlight all departments if possible. A highlight reel essentially.
- Cindy mentioned maybe at some time it might be good for the hangout to do lightening talks.

- Janis followed up that could be a good reading group session. Have a conversation and include some readings. Those who have received a grant can come and talk about it, and about what happens.
- Jessica mentioned in a discussion with another librarian if there is a way for having lightning talks to learn about people's work with snacks could be a good incentive to bring people together to learn about each other's work.
- Celenia likes mixes of divisions for that too. Dean Stewart is visiting Grainger today and maybe it's worth putting a buzz in her ear.
- Everyone agreed it would be okay to stop the meeting.

3. OEC Grant Report Template (Cindy)

- We did not discuss this item

4. Finalize OEC Meeting Dates

- Celenia shared a poll to gauge availability for the meeting times next spring.
- https://pollev.com/ranking_polls/5ReQXxWOF0vZP8FaW0UJH/respond

5. Discuss Reading Group Schedule

- Add to the reading group and skill up ideas schedule.
- Finish the reports to help with quality engagement.
- Cindy asked about the document in box that brainstorming doc.
- Celenia provided the link.
- https://uofi.account.box.com/login?redirect_url=https%3A%2F%2Fuofi.app.box.com%2Fs%2Fsqvu9eby1nynpkog9qa6sqt8c2oxw6bq

6. Discuss Skill Up Ideas

- If some want to work together to do a reading session and skill up there can be collaboration. There are documents in Box also for past events.

7. Other items

- Janis thanked everyone for contributing to the meeting discussion, let's let each other know if there are ways we can support one another. We can use the teams schedule.

8. Volunteer notetaker for next meeting

- Siobhan Mckissic

9. Adjourn