Information Literacy Council  
Minutes  
October, 2010

Members: Grubb, McWilliams, Perry, Lynch, Champlin, Stebbins, Killmeier, Yean

As members drifted in at various points during the meeting, the Council discussed the FRS 197 class, EYE classes, the addition of a student member to the Council, and the new Faculty Toolbox.

Grubb welcomed Sokreth Yean as a new student member of the council. As a student worker in the library and an international student, Sokreth will help add a student voice to matters under discussion. Another library student worker, Nathan McKenney, may be added to the membership in the spring.

The new Faculty Toolbox http://library.usm.maine.edu/services/ftoolbox.php was posted with little fanfare in September. It is designed as a device to promote and provide centralized faculty access to “tools” for teaching library research skills or information literacy in the classroom. Included in the toolbox is a short video designed for classroom use in which the issue of research is addressed by three USM faculty members: Dave Champlin, Lenny Shedletsky, and Katharine Lualdi. Promotion and upgrading of the toolbox will occur per faculty use and feedback. While feedback has been sparse, so far, it has been positive.

For several years an information literacy component has been a required outcome of all EYE classes. With a reduced number of teaching librarians to provide such instruction, last year an online tutorial containing a pre- and post-test was created for in-class use by all EYE class instructors. It was hoped that EYE instructors would see it as an option to the traditional practice of having a librarian teach in-class. The tutorial was lightly used that first year, but Grubb reported over 400 student users this year.

FRS 197 has now been taught for three years and continues to receive very good evaluations from students. This year the face-to-face class enrollment was 20, while the new blended class debuted with an enrollment of only two. The Council discussed why a class that seems like a perfect fit for a blended format would fail to attract more students. Grubb also explained the difficulties of coordinating both classes under a shared-teaching model. Stebbins and McWilliams offered useful ideas on how to retain the elements students like, while gaining more administrative control.

Grubb now has copies of FRS 197 student class evaluations for members who would like to see them. Mostly, students find the class to be very useful with their other classes and are amazed at the wealth of resources at their fingertips. Grubb welcomes ideas on ways to promote the class to USM faculty who might, in turn, advise students of its benefits.

Discussions are underway between David Nutty, Bill Grubb, and Beth Higgins concerning the physical move of the USM Learning Center, in Luther Bonney, to Glickman Library. Contact Grubb for details on what could be a very effective collaboration of like services.