Waterloo ExL Community of Practice: Interdisciplinary-Based Learning
Thursday, November 22, 2018
Location: EV3 4327
Hosted by: Wayne Chang and Jennifer Lynes

Jenn: Introduce today's meeting

Past meetings talked about about challenges and barriers

What is the next step for this group?

1. Having their own students learn frameworks from different disciplines

   OR

2. Capstone with students working together

Example: INTEG210: Making Collaboration Work

- KI's focus is to teach collaboration, this course is not actually open to KI students because they study collaboration over 4 years
- Aim to address the collaboration Gap at UWaterloo
- Create opportunities at Waterloo to encourage collaborations

Marium – Starterhacks

- Perspective of community partner on interdisciplinary collaboration
- Participants in Starterhacks are well represented across faculties, AHS has the lowest
- We encourage students to build teams that are in three categories: Design, business, development
- Can have up to five people in a group, one from each category
- Working with BET300 students to work on the business model – has done this twice
- Can view starterhacks as a marketing tool for organizations to access students
- Expanding at UW to have one every other week and expanding to different Institutions
- Audience is 50% high school students – this is appealing for universities since they spend a week on campus, access to mentors, etc.
- Sponsorship for Starterhacks is $3000, Hack the North is closer to $20k

Where can we move forward today?

CAPSTONE

- What is the capstone cycle? Some students know third year and others wait until the last minute
  - In March they know for starting in September
  - The opportunity is to get third year students – coordinate among faculties to find interdisciplinary collaborations
  - If we were to have collaboration – how would be allocate the crediting?
  - Assessment strategy – could the assessment be different to make it fair in terms of the credit rating? Assessment that is appropriate for that particular group?
  - Special topics capstone that is not in a faculty – is this possible? They have at WLU

- o KI courses that are meant to take KI out of KI
- o Umair is supervising Capstone projects – students think he can connect to stakeholders
- Each department has a capstone coordinator
- KI has a fourth year thesis and course on real world problem solving 0.5/term
  - o Would they be able to join an interdisciplinary team?
  - o Mostly working with an external client – identifying a problem and solving
- INTEG452 A & B Real World Problem Solving
- Goretty Dias – group contracts
  - o KI students developed a group contract that instructors are using on campus
  - o KI student have theory in collaboration but not in the business side – this is a gap in the program as graduates go into business
- Sean Geobey: had a similar experience – supervising systems design team
  - o Design engineering solution to a problem – matching volunteers with non-profits
  - o They got feedback that the business model doesn't work, which was right because they were only thinking about solving the problem of the volunteering gap
  - o The students would like to take INDEV308 to learn about this but they can't because engineering is such a strict timeline
- Should we be capturing these different models?
  - o What are existing models? Can we do qualitative analysis so we can adapt these models
- Identify current people that are doing this - how do we do this?
  - o Create videos??
  - o **Experts file – there should be links!**
  - o IT is doing a MiR – My Research profile
  - o Open call – have people come in on experiential/interdisciplinary
    - ▪ Admissions want this to humanize, especially in ENG
- CTE workshops on enhancing group work – how to teach it and grade the process
  - o Kate: set up a group that are studying collaboration
  - o Environmental scan of people that are teaching collaborations
  - o Organic, who you know approach to finding collaboration
  - o Developing guest lecture models on how to set this up
  - o People will be teaching it because it's important but they don't know the theory or best practices
  - o Oscar Nespoli's Mechanical Engineering Design Project
- Umair Shah – other institutions are reaching out to him about Riipen, how are they finding this out? Maybe through Riipen – can we do a video of this?
  - o Talk about what worked and didn't work
- Umair – supply chain – wants to talk about green supply chain with ENV but there isn't a way to do this
  - o Can we do this informally? Scheduling problem
- Problem lab – billion dollar problems/ideas
  - o Not curricular
  - o He is developing coop teams to work with a community partner
- Problems that need to be address at the University level
  - o Co-teaching – who gets credit? How does this work?

- ▪ "Held with" listing
- Wayne and Kate Schmidlin are combining a class one week – design course + venture creation class = come together to have a class on customers
- Kate Plaisance is co-teaching in KI
    - o Guest lecture exchange
    - o When its mutual, you don't have the credit issues
- Evaluations
    - o Jenn said they did "course eval" and "Instructor eval"
- Wayne brings a class to Velocity

Take aways

Capstones in third year

TO do list

- Find capstone coordinators and reach out
- Create framework that has capstones that are visible