

UBC SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM
WELLBEING SCHOLARS PROJECT
Summer 2018

Research project title

Developing a community of practice to enhance faculty capacity to foster student wellbeing

Goal or Operations Plan objective

Objective: to develop an implementation plan for a Community of Practice (CoP) whose focus is on bringing together a community of faculty interested in fostering student wellbeing in their work as educators.

Long Term Goal: To establish a sustainable CoP that focuses on student wellbeing with support from the Centre for Teaching, Learning & Technology (CTLT). This network will encourage a sense of community by holding a space where faculty can connect with each other and share knowledge, best practices, and resources with the commitment to embedding wellbeing in the campus learning environment.

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable.

The proposed project aims to develop the foundation for a CoP for faculty who, as educators, are interested in student wellbeing. Creating a community of faculty who are interested in student wellbeing aligns with other university initiatives related to wellbeing in learning environments (e.g., Academic Tenacity TLEF 2017-2020, Wellbeing Liaisons) and responds to the call to action outlined in the Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges to embed health into campus operations, academics, and campus culture. In addition, this CoP acts as an avenue for faculty and staff to engage and develop a sense of community around the topic of wellbeing and demonstrates the connection between wellbeing and social sustainability.

Pre-project preparation [ground work done by the mentor]:

1. Finalizing a core group, consisting of the mentor, 3 to 4 committed faculty members from UBC-V, and staff from key campus partners (e.g. UBC Wellbeing, CTLT, UBC Educational Leadership Network etc.) who will provide direction in the initial stages of this project [March/April].

Scope of project:

2. Review existing literature on establishing CoPs in higher education to identify best practices that can inform the development of this CoP. [May].
3. Develop and implement a recruitment and engagement strategy to involve interested faculty members using existing networks (e.g. UBC Wellbeing, CTLT, UBC Faculty Association, UBC Educational Leadership Network, Academic Tenacity TLEF 2017-2020) [May/June].
4. Assist in the design and execution of an initial needs assessment process with interested faculty members to data collect on topics of interest or inquiry as they relate to wellbeing (e.g., teaching practices, having supportive conversations with students, embedding topics into curriculum) and CoP activities (e.g., professional development opportunities, round table discussions, asset mapping) [June/July].
5. Collate and analyse needs assessment findings with identification of themes and categories using appropriate research methods [July].
6. Based on the needs assessment findings, collaborate with interested faculty members and the core group in identifying the infrastructure of this CoP (or other format as guided by the findings) using best-practice guidelines revealed in bullet 2 to meet the needs identified. Currently we have support from CTLT regarding strategies in establishing CoP and basic event logistics (online communication and registration, room booking, light refreshment etc) [July].
7. Integrate findings from bullet # 2 and 5, and built upon the infrastructure identified in bullet 6, develop a detail implementation plan for a Community of Practice (CoP) whose focus is on bringing together a community of faculty interested in fostering student wellbeing in their work as educators [July / Aug].

Submit applications here: <http://bit.ly/2DC2jpP>

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Deliverables

Based on Wenger & Trayner's work on CoP (2012), deliverables are categorized as domains (the definition of the area of shared inquiry and of the key issues), community (the relationships among members and the sense of belonging) and practice (the body of knowledge, methods, stories, cases, tools, documents)

Domains:

- Summary findings outlining key topics of interest and CoP activities that faculty identified during the needs assessment process.

Community:

- A list of faculty members who are interested at supporting students' wellbeing.
- Foundational documents for a CoP (or similar format) with shared goals and long term visions for faculty interested in fostering student wellbeing in the learning environment. Examples of documents may include: summary document on best practices for establishing the CoP.
- An inventory of strengths and capacities of CoP members.

Additional deliverable:

- A final report (or Executive Summary) for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library of completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to interested faculty members and other stakeholders.

Time Commitment

Please indicate the total numbers of hours your scholar will need to complete the project, the time frame (within April 30 to August 11), any critical dates for the project, and the optimal schedule for your scholar's work.

- This project will take **250*** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between April 30 and August 10, 2018
- The scholar is to complete hours between (about 10 am to 4 pm during work days, depends on stages of the project and schedules of other stakeholders), approximately 15-20 hours per week.

Early May

- 20 hrs for project orientation, reviewing literature relevant to CoP formation, and meeting with core group members
- 15 hrs to recruit / reach out to faculty members who are interested in supporting students' wellbeing

May-June

- 15 hrs to develop tools (e.g. surveys, focus groups etc.) for needs assessment
- 30 hrs to conduct needs assessment
- 90 hrs to analyse data

June-July

- 20 hrs to report findings to needs assessment participants - to validate findings, identify how the CoP can best support their desire to promote students' wellbeing, and build their sense of ownership towards the CoP
- 35 hrs to identify basic infra-structure and resources needed for the CoP and facilitate relationship building among the members

**Late July -
August**

- 30 hrs to develop a detail implementation plan for the CoP and write up the final report

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Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in health and wellbeing.
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset.
- Strong writing skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project Management and organizational skills
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Strong technical writing skills
- Familiarity with performing needs assessments
- Interested in teaching practices and students' mental wellbeing

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