

Agenda Item 6.3

Collaborative Learning Assistance Project

Dear CPSLD members,

Please forward this message as appropriate to those responsible for library, learning, writing or other related services at your institution. Given the success of the AskAway library reference service, a number of individual post-secondary institutions as well as the BC Council of Senior Student Affairs Leaders (CSSAL) have expressed interest in exploring the concept of a provincial collaboration to provide online tutoring services.

A small exploratory group met on September 21st at SFU Harbour Centre to further discuss the idea and suggest parameters for such a service. At this meeting it was proposed that the goal of the project was to provide consistent, high quality online academic support for post-secondary students throughout the province, no matter their geographic location or the size of their institution. The proposed service will focus on providing writing support for academic purposes, encompassing the needs of students in BC college, institute, and university programs, and including those for whom English is an additional language. This focus was chosen as writing support is in high demand across our institutions and can be appropriately provided beyond a specific institution, just as AskAway very successfully provides province-wide library research support. Moreover, writing support is highly complementary to the AskAway service as students with library research questions often also ask for writing assistance.

To underline the connection with AskAway and provide the same multiple meanings, one possible name for the proposed service would be "WriteAway". If you are interested in this proposed service and/or have questions or comments, please bring forward to the CPSLD meeting or contact Carole Compton-Smith or Elaine Fairey SFU by November 5. The exploratory group will re-convene in mid-November to assess the interest in this project and consider next steps, including how best to include representatives from institutions of different sizes, mandates, and geographic regions as the discussion continues.

September 21st Meeting Participants:

Lyn Benn, Director, Student Development & Success, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Carole Compton-Smith, Director of Learning Resources, Douglas College

Elaine Fairey, Associate University Librarian & Director, Student Learning Commons, SFU

Lila Heilbrunn, Director of Library and Learning Services, VCC

Sandra Singh, Director, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UBC

Simon Neame, Assistant Director, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UBC