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'Capitol'izing on Opportunities: Creating Collaborative Library Spaces through Partnerships with Campus Organizations

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"CAPITALIZING ON OPPORTUNITIES:
Creating Collaborative Library Spaces through Partnerships with Campus Organizations

NEW COMMITTEE, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

STATUS QUO

With the formation of a new Library Spaces Committee we had a choice to maintain the status quo of:

- Decision-making based on budget, timing, and previous choices.
- One-time projects.
- Or forging a new path of collaboration.

COLLABORATE

The collaborative path would include:

- Cross campus efforts to ensure student success and persistence by seeking partnerships.
- Phase planning to coordinate space changes needed across the library.

‘Capitalizing on opportunities’ partnerships led to collaborative spaces.

CHALLENGES

REACHING USERS

Surveyed current library visitors/users but did not account for hard-to-reach populations or potential users.

ITERATIVE ASSESSMENT

Keeping assessment on track is difficult as coordination between multiple groups and individuals is tricky.

PHASE PLANNING

While we hope to build a phase plan, we must use these initiatives as pilot projects to identify areas for a phased approach.

CAMPUS IT

TRADITIONAL PARTNER

Existing contact within the library with a partner who is open to surveying students and ascertaining their interests and needs.

2018 PROJECT

Purchase new technologies for Learning Commons, plan future collaborative technology study spaces for space previously used for the Reference collection.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

Serve students and support success Willing/able to fund collaborative projects emphasizing technology.

CAMPUS RECREATION

NEW PARTNER

No previous partnerships but wanted to 'capitalize on their new hires to align goals. Sought partner based on assessment data.

2019 PROJECT

Purchased bike desks for student areas as alternative collaborative study spaces.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

Serve students and support success Willing/able to fund collaborative projects emphasizing wellness.

SOLUTIONS

COMMUNICATE

Clarify goals, roles and expectations early on in the collaboration process.

IDENTIFY POINT PEOPLE

Champions of shared goals make projects easier!

TIME YOUR PROJECTS FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Work to understand your partner’s operations & structures. Especially if funding is a key part of your project.

ITERATIVE ASSESSMENT

- Creates ambassadors for library goals and programs campus-wide.
- Raises the library’s profile.
- Allows for the testing of assessment tools.
- Establishes guiding principles for future plans/implementations.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- New furniture and technology with no library investment.
- "Cross campus efforts to ensure student success and persistence by seeking partnerships."
- Phase planning to coordinate space changes needed across the library.
- Decision-making based on budget, timing, and previous choices.
- One-time projects.
- Or forging a new path of collaboration.

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