

## EDC Grant Midterm Report

### **Title of Project:**

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Collaborative

### **Principal Investigator:**

Gary Hunt

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### **Co-investigators:**

Peter Arthur, University of British Columbia, Okanagan

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Sylvia Currie, BCCampus

### **Overview of the project:**

The project entails setting up a website that will be a portal into the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Visitors will be able to access a variety of levels of engagement into the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, including reviewing current projects, searching for collaborators in their area of interest and disseminating their research results. Our portal will allow visitors to search the database for potential collaborators, access ideas and projects that are currently underway or planned, and link to summaries of completed SoTL projects. The possibility of cross-institutional research will be enhanced with the use of this electronic tool. We hope to create a vital connection between academic institutions that will introduce, encourage and nurture the development of SoTL projects.

### **Progress toward stated goals of the project at the midterm point:**

All of the site functionality we require to begin adding content is in place. The site can be viewed at, <http://ltc.bccampus.ca/sotl/> . At two upcoming conferences, we plan to invite participants to navigate the site and add content in the form of SoTL ideas they have for projects, current projects underway, or progress reports. We have submitted proposals to the University of British Columbia-Okanagan Learning Conference on May 2, 3 and to STLHE in June.

There is additional website design work needed. Based on the feedback we have received at two previous conferences, we want to add areas for resources such as literature on SoTL methodology and journals that publish SoTL work. These resources would target SoTL novices. We will continue to gather feedback and suggestions from conference participants and later from the early users.

### **Barriers/challenges encountered and plans for problem-solving:**

The biggest challenge is getting the web design work accomplished. The cost of using the original commercial design company we worked with is too high for our budget. We have not yet spent any money from the current EDC fund. Our one team member who can make site changes (Sylvia Currie) has been doing the work. Sylvia has access to two graduate students who can help so we plan to use them at a lower cost than the commercial company.

Looking ahead to when the site is used heavily, our concern is how it will be maintained. As we indicated in a previous report, ongoing support will be needed.

The SoTL Collaborative website will require ongoing community and technology stewardship to:

- Monitor Case Tracker for Research Working Group requests
- Curate Group content based on progress: 1. Active Research Working Group, 2. Completed, 3. Inactive/Archived
- Ensure consistent Group names for all SoTL core groups, Research Groups
- Monitor Publications Group
- Manage accounts (e.g., duplicates, incomplete information)
- Monitor keywords, maintain taxonomy
- Respond to help requests
- Identify further needs for development

We believe this will require an ongoing partnership and perhaps we can discuss this with the EDC Executive.

### **Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project, to date or planned**

In 2011, we made presentations at STLHE and the Centennial Symposium for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning on November 12. The feedback was extremely useful in confirming our plan or providing ideas for site improvement.

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