EDC Grant Midterm Report

Title of Project: Data scaffolding for data novices: a strategic approach to supporting educational

developers and faculty in educational research quantitative analysis

Principal Investigator: Janice Patterson

Co-investigators: Sarah King, Allyson Skene. (We have added Elaine Khoo, a colleague in our department, as a co-investigator.)

Overview of the project:
Our project consists of developing a toolkit for instructors and educational developers to use when undertaking quantitative action research in various course-based and extracurricular contexts in higher education.

Progress toward stated goals of the project at the midterm point:
We have hired a psychology graduate student with considerable expertise in educational research and with his help we have been reviewing the various data collection and analysis processes within our unit, with an eye to enhancing and streamlining these. Using this experience as a guide, we are in the early stages of drafting a sharable toolkit that will provide guidelines for educational developers and instructors (without expertise in educational research) to use to assess their own educational programs. It will include generalizable principles, examples drawn from a range of programs and course-based research, practical worksheets, and troubleshooting tips. We are currently fleshing out the toolkit (in the form of a workbook) based on the major themes and structure that have emerged from our work to date.

Barriers/challenges encountered and plans for problem-solving:
We have not encountered any particular barriers to the project.

Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project, to date or planned:
We have submitted a proposal for a 50 min presentation at STLHE in June, and we are also planning to do a roundtable session at the UT Scarborough campus-wide Teaching Showcase in early May, 2012. The goal of these sessions is to gather feedback on an initial version of the toolkit.

We anticipate publishing the guide as a printable workbook and interactive website. And we will be seeking additional opportunities to present on it, both inside and outside of the U of T system.