

Learning Commons: What's Working? Ideas from Weigle Information Commons

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Penn Libraries

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Presentation Plan

1. What do we do?
2. What do we believe?
3. Who cares about us?
4. Why measure?
5. What can we count?
6. What can we sense?
7. What can we improve?



1. What do we do?



2. What do we believe?

- Hardware - better 'broken' than 'dusty'
- Physical comfort enables creativity
- Conversations matter
- Partnerships matter
- Embracing change is essential

**tell me and
i'll forget.
show me
and i may
remember.
involve me
and i learn.**

- Benjamin Franklin

3. Who cares about us?

- Undergraduates
- Program Partners
- Faculty – especially when course assignments are at stake
- Departments within the library system
- University administrators
- Donors



4. Why measure?

- Accountability to stakeholders
- Fundraising
- Data-driven decision-making
- Making case for new programs

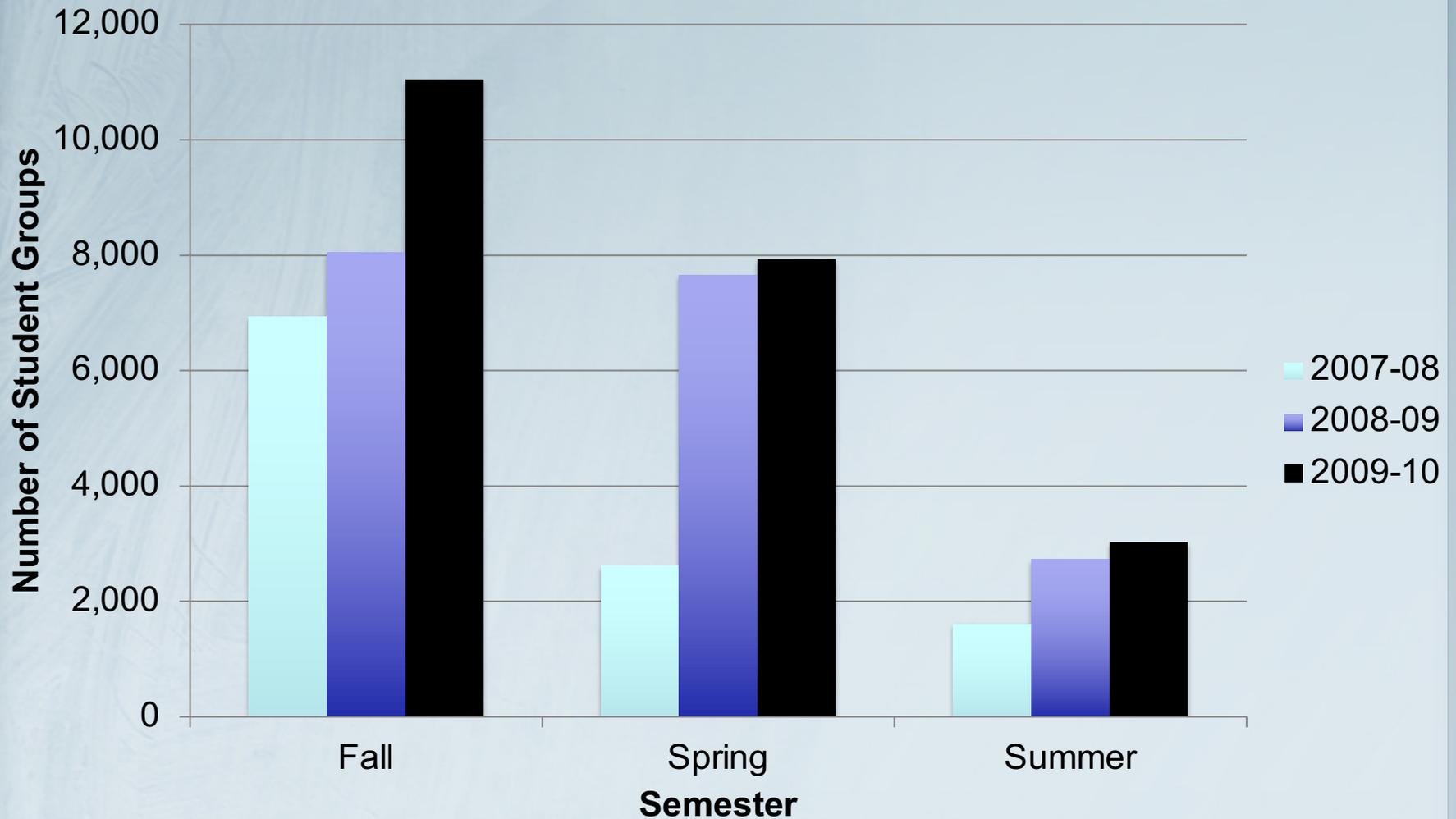


5. What can we count?

- Space use –reservations, logins, head counts
- Patrons in Media Lab
- Partner Services usage
- Workshops – numbers, topics, attendance, requests
- Faculty-requested course integration



Student Groups (2 to 8 people in each) using 10 rooms and 12 booths by semester



The counting tells us that...

- Steady Growth:
 - Group Space Use
 - Integration, demand for partner services
 - Workshop number, attendance, variety
 - Personal laptop and mobile device use
- Plateau / Decline:
 - Lab patron visits
 - Poster printing
- Not Predictable:
 - Late night use
 - Course-based training

6. What can we sense?

- Observing student behavior
- Conversations with faculty
- Word of mouth within and across disciplines
- Assignments and curricular integration
- Technology as “the great equalizer”
- [Courses list](#)

Faculty Conversations on Class Video Projects

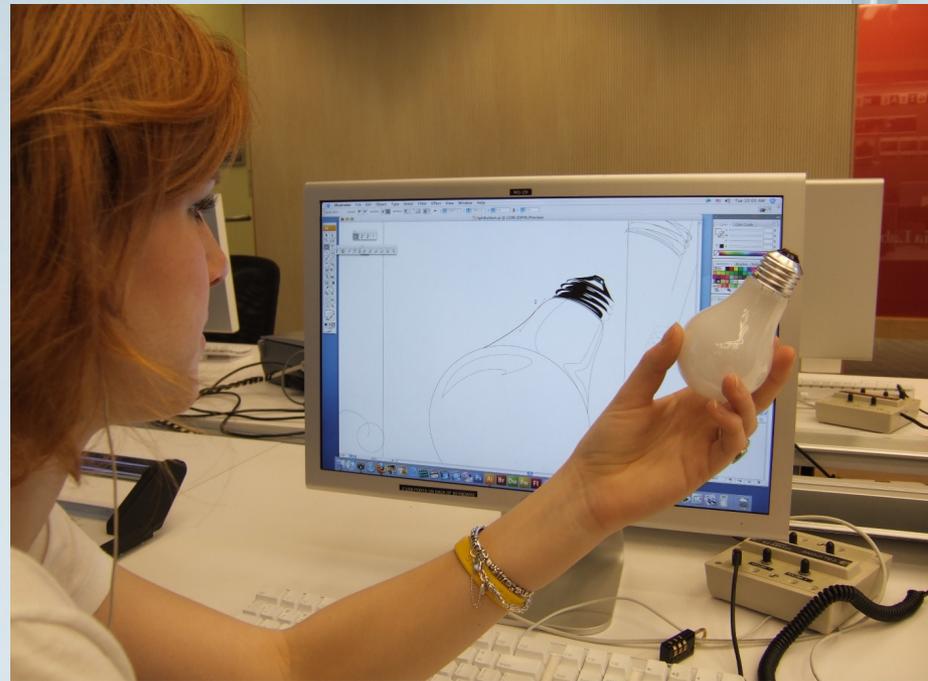


The stories tell us that...

- Steady Growth:
 - Variety of tech tools
 - Variety of assignments
 - Faculty engagement
 - Demand for customization
 - Online Training
 - Ownership of our success
- Plateau / Decline:
 - Video editing assignments
 - Long workshops
- Not Predictable:
 - Topics of interest
 - Discipline-specific choices

7. What can we improve?

- We change workshop topics frequently
- We accept honest feedback about class-based support
- We act on suggestions from Faculty and Program Partners Groups



Please come visit us!

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