Cybercivility Task Force Meeting
May 7, 2014

Welcome, Outcomes, Feedback and Online Collaboration Site

Dr. David Steinberg, Facilitator

Dr. Steinberg opened the meeting by reviewing the feedback from the group on the previous meeting held in April.

Based on the comments received, we made the following changes:

We added five students to the group.
We are starting the meeting at 7 p.m. and ending at 8:30 p.m.
We are providing more time to network because you felt rushed. We built networking time in at the beginning and built in a real break during this meeting.
We also built in more time for you to spend in the subcommittees.

Gboyinde Onijala, Communications Specialist

Gboyinde walked the group through the collaboration site, Google drive folder and offered an explanation of Google groups. All subcommittees have folders as well, so users can share resources that would be useful in discussions. With Google groups, members can email and ask questions. It will be a useful tool as members communicate offline and online and get everyone engaged in the conversation. Everyone has the same access; everyone can upload.

Review Updated Charge Statement and Scope of Work

Brian Edwards, Chief Communications Officer

Brian reviewed the changes that the Office of Communications Staff made to the Charge Statement after the April 3 meeting.

There were a lot of common themes when we looked at the comments and suggestions you provided as a group. In terms of the big ideas, people thought there should be an idea of building a culture of cybercivility. There should be a stronger student presence and mentioning students more explicitly in the charge statement. There was also a lot of discussion about strategies and helping students make healthy online decisions.

What is Cybercivility?

Dr. Steinberg talked to the group about defining cybercivility.

It does not have to be perfect. We're going to rework this a couple times. It needs to be relatively brief, people have to be able to see it and understand it.

We're going to do a live poll. Once you've come up with definition, we need one person to volunteer to text us for the poll.

The group came up with the following definitions:

"Participating in on-line interaction and sharing ideas and information in a safe and respectful manner without fear or threat."

 "Cybercivility is where people can freely participate with technology without feelings of harassment, lies, or unwanted abuse."

 "To engage positively in the use of digital media in a manner that is responsible, respectful, non-threatening, and constructive."

 "Effectively communicating in the digital world in a manner that makes individuals feel safe, respected, and free from the threat of estrangement."

 "A culture of respectful, inclusive, and responsible online behavior that promotes a healthy exchange of ideas and fosters a positive impact."

 "When expressing yourself electronically, behaving in a way that respects other individuals and ideas."

Dr. Steinberg:

Read the definitions of cybercivility out loud and pointed out what some of the common words were:

Respect/respectful/etiquette
Safety/safe/non-threatening/without fear or abuse
Communication/participating/expressing/engaging

The communications staff is going to take your feedback and try to capture the essence of what you're thinking in one definition. We will present and discuss the group definition at the June 4 meeting.

The Work of the Task Force Subcommittees

There was brief discussion about the work of the subcommittees. The subcommittees were encouraged to meet (at least once) between the regular meetings of the full task force. They also were asked to upload their planning notes on the Google Drive and continue their discussions via the Cybercivility Task Force Google Group. The subcommittees selected a moderator and a note taker and went over the scope of work.

Next Steps and Evaluation

Dr. Steinberg reminded the group that the next meeting will be held in the Auditorium at the Carver Educational Services Center (850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville) on June 4 at 7p.m. He informed the group that they were welcome to stay and work in the auditorium with their subcommittees until 9 p.m. Task force members were asked to complete a meeting evaluation form.