



SUMMARY – Student Learning Working Group Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Members of the Working Group shared impactful learning experiences in their lives and identified common themes from these experiences to help start the conversation on student learning experiences.

The following themes emerged:

1. learning as a prompt to find new ways of looking at the world;
2. a sense of newness and discomfort (shifting/changing) when learning something new;
3. learning by 'doing' something (i.e. a collaborative project);
4. a realization that one is part of something bigger than at first expected; and,
5. the importance of the environment and community on providing learning opportunities.

The working group discussed potential actionable solutions that aim to foster these principles. One idea the group floated included some sort of interdisciplinary course/experience unique to Queen's and available in any program that brings Queen's students from very unlikely fields together to actually work on local 'wicked problems' (those problems which are large, difficult to solve, and cut across a variety of disciplines) and thereby tap into a variety of resources and experiences at Queen's and in Kingston. Another idea was about how best to prompt learner engagement in problem-based learning.

The Working Group stressed the importance of conveying how to 'learn how to learn' early on in a student's learning experience and being attentive to what the modern learner actually needs to have to learn effectively. The Group also stressed the rich learning opportunity generated by exposing students to experiences and people they would not otherwise encounter, particularly if the learning experience interacted in a positive way with the local community.

The Working Group acknowledged that the communication strategy towards the implementation of any operational priorities would be vital in order to encourage participation, meaningful engagement, and ultimately to inspire a truly "Queen's" learning experience.