

2012 Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Pre-ISSOTL Workshop

Building on the successful CUR workshops held prior to the annual meetings of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL) in Liverpool (2010) and Milwaukee (2011), the Council on Undergraduate Research hosted a pre-conference workshop at the 2012 ISSOTL conference in Hamilton Ontario this past October. The theme of the workshop, “Undergraduate Research and Change in Higher Education,” attracted nearly 75 attendees from nine countries and five continents. Participants convened for a daylong exploration of how undergraduate research *effects* change in higher education and how a variety of changes in higher education *affect* undergraduate research.

The day’s activities were designed to engage participants in meaningful dialogue and in the collaborative development of strategies that will position them, as individuals and as a community of supporters of undergraduate research, to effectively navigate and instigate change in higher education. The morning session was devoted to understanding the changing landscape of undergraduate research and higher education, while the afternoon was focused on envisioning how to effect positive change at participants’ home institutions. Attendees worked collaboratively to develop strategies to tackle six specific opportunities or challenges:

- Students as change agents
- Undergraduate research generating transformative learning
- The role of undergraduate research in curriculum renewal
- The influence of technological changes on undergraduate research
- The influence of changing student demographics on undergraduate research
- Supporting and sustaining UR in times of times of fiscal challenge

The stage for the day’s work was set by keynote addresses from Angela Brew (Macquarie University, Australia) on “Undergraduate Research and Change in Higher Education”; Rachel Spronken-Smith (University of Otago, New Zealand) on “Instigating and Implementing Change in Higher Education”; and Philippa Levy (Higher Education Academy and University of Sheffield, United Kingdom) on “Embedding Undergraduate Research and Inquiry in An Institution.” Participants’ discussions were further informed by plenary discussions led by Mick Healey (higher education consultant and researcher, University of Gloucestershire, United Kingdom) and poster presentations exploring the six challenges that formed subthemes for the workshop.

The day’s work concluded with each self-selected group discussing the six subthemes and developing action plans and toolkits for change. A number of collaborative working groups were formed that are committed to continuing to work on strategies to support undergraduate research.

CUR/ISSOTL 2012 Planning Committee

Kelly McConnaughay and
Rachel Spronken-Smith, Co-conveners

Peter Felten

Susan Larson

Mick Healey

Beth Marquis

Sue Vajoczki

Additional International Perspectives can be found here:

http://www.cur.org/resources/institutions/international_perspectives/