Using Informal Learning Spaces and Non-Traditional Methods to Assess Student Success

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• Felt limited by traditional survey methodology

• Saw value in open-ended conversation

• Wanted participants to be able to see other people’s responses and communicate with them
Crafting your own cup o’ joe (aka Project Goals)

- Big picture of student success: retention, graduation, engagement
- Zooming in: how is, and could, our library support these priorities?
- Personalization: translating broad data into actionable conversation
Methodology

- Collaborative by nature
- Capable of tunnel vision
- Conscious steps
Methodology

- Time-intensive IRB
- List of questions
- Locations
- Considerations
Implementation

- Expecting the unexpected
  - Unpredictable weather
  - Vanishing boards
  - Deciphering responses

Contributing to the conversation

- Visibility
- Opportunities to observe
Another Look

- Adjustments to study period and locations
- Addition of another library
- Continued outreach to colleagues
Analysis
The Actual Data

- Daily stressors & current events
- Diversity
- Procedures
- Funding
- Time capsule elements
- Multiplicity of identities
Outcomes

• Highlighted opportunities for community-building

• Demonstrated actionable items related to the Libraries’ physical spaces and communications

• Illustrated value of partnerships and dialogue

Comment on 2015 whiteboard, in response to the question “Today I feel ______”

Thankful to have access to a good education. + Thankful this board stopped me to remind me to be thankful!
Next Steps

How do you feel today?

Today I feel awesome.

Is that good enough for you?

That isn't a question.

I feel sleep deprived and anxious.

Today I feel overwhelmed.

Victorious — same

Beautiful

Gonna succeed

Struggling like a Muggle?

I feel good.

Relieved

Drained...

Overwhelmed with too much

Otherwise, I'm fun-freak-in-tastic.

This is a year of overeating + stress + sweat + no time.

Excited to meet Laverne Cox!!!

Hungry!

Tired! Feel me!

Amazing!

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