Breaking the Mold in Public Safety Education

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"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking that created them" - Einstein

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Session goals

- Discuss the importance of interdisciplinary and intra-professional approaches.
- Discuss how a zero-textbook approach can facilitate student learning and adaptability.
About Sheridan College

Statistics current as of February 2019:

Total Number of Students

- **23,000** Full-time students
- **3,800** Part-time students
- **16,950** Continuing and Professional Studies students

Faculties

- Animation, Arts and Design
- Pilon School of Business
- Applied Science and Technology
- Applied Health and Community Studies
- Humanities and Social Sciences

- **120+** programs across these 5 faculties, including 25 degree programs
- **500+** programs and courses offered

(Sheridan College, n.d.)
Process of creation started in 2014:
- Initially the emphasis was on traditional public safety models
- Shifted to a public health approach

First cohort was Sept 2018 (year 1 intake only):
- 48 students started – mainly domestic, 1 international (from US)
- Have 44 going into year 2

Have pathways into year 2 for 2019:
- Police foundations, Community and justice services, Social Service workers, and Social Service workers – Gerontology
- Diverse paths out of the program are expected
Where are you from? (e.g. college, university, government, community partner)
What does community mean to you?
Traditional public safety

- Typically encompass:
  - Security
  - Countering crime
  - National security
  - Border security
  - Emergency management

How do these typically interact with the communities they serve?
Is there a need for change?

“…require training that equips Service members to be effective partners with all communities and to have a positive impact on deeper challenges, such as social inequality, poverty, inequality of opportunity, discrimination, and systemic racism” (Toronto Police Transformational Task Force, 2017).

(mohamed_hassan, 2018)
Is there a need for change?

- “The current service delivery model does not place communities at the centre of service delivery or sufficiently elevate and value this kind of police work” (Toronto Police Transformational Task Force, 2017).

(Waldryano, 2016)
Is there a need for change?

“Provincial and municipal governments must be supportive of innovations and new models of policing. Support is also needed from other participants in the public safety and security web, including private security, local health professionals, and community groups” (Association of Municipalities of Ontario Policing Modernization Report, 2015).
Is there a need for change?

- “The cost of policing continues to rise at a higher rate than other public services… If we spend too much on one [public service] and starve the others, we are just as likely to risk societal discord” (Association of Municipalities of Ontario, 2015, pp. 7-8).

(Tumisu, 2018)
**Identified needs in community safety**

|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|

(Goals adapted from Association of Municipalities of Ontario, 2015; Toronto Police Transformational Task Force, 2017)
1. Building partnerships

- **Public health approach to community safety:**
  - Emphasis on nuance and interdisciplinary/inter-professional coordination.
  - Places the focus back onto community, prevention, and building resiliency.

- **Linking to community partners:**
  - Emphasis on leadership and collaboration.
  - Stresses applied research and program evaluation.
2. Differentiated service delivery

- **Differentiated service delivery defined:** A client-centred, rights-based approach that looks to meet people (and communities) where they are.

- **Interdisciplinary collaboration:** The idea of "interdisciplinary" has been a buzz word for years – harder to implement:
  - According to Hoekstra, “It is widely believed that broad understanding is achieved by bringing scholars from different disciplines together, but that is not enough. Broad understanding needs to be internalized in individuals” (as cited in Marlow, 2015).
3. Culture change

- Focus on leadership, understanding behaviour change and building influence, teaching collaboration and facilitation skills
- Some courses linked – interdisciplinary and inter-professional
  - Encourages considering problems from multiple views.
  - Encourages partnership in non-traditional public service.
- Reflective practice
4. Sustainability and affordability

- Evidence based approaches:
  - Strong research curriculum, including community-based participatory research and program evaluation.
  - Modelling this principle through free and open access materials for students.
  - Untethering from textbooks - Allows for faculty to tailor course materials to the subject and maintain relevancy.
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Tuition fees in Canada

Average tuition fee for full-time Canadian undergraduate students in Canada in 2018/19, by province (in Canadian dollars)

(Statistics Canada, n.d.)
What is the average cost Ontarion students pay for books and supplies per academic year?

- $800.00
- $1,000.00
- $1,300.00
- $2,000.00
3. Sustainability and affordability

- **Formation of “z-degree”:**
  - According to BC Campus (n.d.), “A Zed Cred/Z-Degree is a set of courses in a specific program area that allows a student to earn a credential, such as an associate degree or certificate program, with zero textbook costs by way of using open educational resources and/or free library materials” (What is a Zed Cred (Z Degree) Program? section).

- **Evidence-based approach to curriculum while reducing cost for students:**
  - Use of Sheridan Library’s online collections, and open source materials.
  - Implementation of electronic course reading service (eCOR) that integrates readings into SLATE, Sheridan College’s course management system.
  - Purchase of print textbook sets for 2 mandatory courses.
1. You have 5 minutes to brainstorm the following question independently: **How can you facilitate learning and promote interdisciplinary collaboration?**
   According to Hoekstra, interdisciplinary is defined as “It is widely believed that broad understanding is achieved by bringing scholars from different disciplines together, but that is not enough. Broad understanding needs to be internalized in individuals” (as cited in Marlow, 2015).

2. Write your ideas on the Post-It Notes, and then stick them in the middle of your table.

3. You have 5 minutes to share your ideas at your table and expand upon them as needed.
Questions?

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References


References


