



WESST Retreat 2008 Session on 'Direction of WESST'

Date: Friday, Oct. 24th, 2008

Location: Camp Morice, Fort St. James, BC

What do you think is the purpose of WESST?

Logan (UVic B): to establish communication between member schools

Chris (UBC): Run WEC. We should have more direct one on one sessions with member schools' different positions.

Should WESST service the student bodies more directly (other than WEC)?

Chris (UBC): It would be nice for WESST to reach out to students , yet apathy is an issue. Respective student societies have difficulty reaching their students directly themselves.

Liam (UVic A): Students benefit from WESST transitively.

Logan (UVic B): WESST is there to help the executives, but it's for the students. No need to help the students directly.

What do you want from WESST? What would be the best thing WESST can provide you?

Liam (UVic A): More student support.

Logan (UVic B): Come up with money and have fancy retreats for presidents of student bodies. More professional development. Sessions by leaders from industry on leadership, project management, etc.

Are you willing to spend more on fees?

Erin (UBC): Get sponsorship.

Logan (UVic B): Professional session is something we value but shouldn't be something we should decide on right now.

Joel (UBC): Have an online forum for the schools as opposed to flying/ driving out to conferences.

Ariel (UBC): Do we have forums?

Will (WESST): No because there is too much apathy in WESST.

Daryl (U of A): Online forums not effective. Posting info. passively on the website not as effective as taking time out of our schedules to come to WESST, where we have our full attention here.

Will (WESST): Sharenet could be a possible solution for sharing files.

Sean (WESST): Is there going to be any use to file sharing for WESST? Is it just something we're going to create and it's going to sit there?



Joel (UBC): benefit of having document sharing: a buffer for good/ bad transition. Helps more people get involved as opposed to helping people that are already involved.

Sean (WESST): Link between file sharing and getting involved?

Joel (UBC): provides a longer list of resources to draw from.

Daniel (SFU): There should be a list of who runs events, e.g. name and school. More specs such as revenue, student opinions etc.

Sean (WESST): Is this going to be something we create and fail at again?

Chris (UBC): I agree with Sean. It's hard to stay interested in WESST when we're not at WESST. We're already busy enough with things at our own schools.

How people have a wiki/ file repository at your schools?

~survey: almost 2/3

Is it possible to open these up to other schools to look at?

Liam (UVic A): Reasonable to do this. We have pages on Pi throw.

Will (WESST): So, it should up be to WESST to facilitate this, not necessarily create the files.

Daryl (U of A): Not too hard for school to open up a link for wikis.

Will (WESST): In short, you would like to see more professional development, more interaction between what happens between the schools.

How do we quantitatively measure how effectively WESST does this?

Will (WESST): hard for the executive to move towards it if they have nothing to go by.

Daniel (SFU): WESST is effective vs. WESST is efficient is something to consider. Consider getting a goal done, but also consider how long it would take to get the goal done.

Chris (UBC): Goals we set out are not very measurable. Fundamentally there are no easily measurable benchmarks for our goals.

Logan (UVic B): If WESST retreat, WEC etc. gets done, we have reached our goal. We can also ask these questions in motions as a way of distinguishing whether goals get done or not.

Sean (WESST): Could be a WESST objective to make schools' wikis accessible to all schools.

Online repository vs. Access to school's wikis

Sean (WESST): How to make wikis?

Daryl (U of A): Open codes available online. Can set up user accounts, passwords, etc.

Daryl to Mail out the password and link to all the schools in read-only form.

End of session.