Applying Design Thinking to Academic Plans

Wednesday, March 30, 8:45am - 12:00pm
MSU Union, Room 55 (Lower Level)
(Registration at 8:45am; program begins at 9:00am)

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Facilitators from the Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology

Many faculty members are considering revitalization of programs in which they teach or redesign of their courses. Often this is sparked by a vision for the future or a sense that change is necessary. However, enacting a new design requires consideration of the system in which an idea must be implemented. As the Innovation Hub for Learning and Technology gets under way, we have begun to utilize a design workshop process. The goal of a design workshop is to create experiences that structure group thinking, to generate vision, and begin to enumerate ideas, and then develop a path forward that forms the core of an implementation plan.

This workshop emphasizes a design thinking approach to implementing academic plans. This intentionally brings multiple stakeholders from across disciplines into a room to work together. Design thinking draws on methods from engineering and design, and combines them with ideas from social science, the arts, and business. Strategies include a variety of mapping techniques (e.g., process, stakeholder, audience), insights from experience of students, structured discussion, brainstorming and comparing multiple solutions, and rapid prototyping. Participants will learn about the Hub’s nascent process for using design thinking to engage around a project idea.

Participants will experience structured group design activities. Participants may consider how to employ similar methods in their own work with other project teams. Participants will work on actual design challenges from current Hub clients, and may leave with ideas relevant to their own work.

Specific learning outcomes include:

- Understanding of how to apply systems thinking and design thinking process to academic planning;
- Describe key academic system components in a higher education planning context relevant to design thinking;
- Apply activities used in a design thinking workshop to department meetings or classroom practice; and
- Make connections between desired outcomes of courses and programs and possible implementation strategies.

Co-Sponsored by MSU Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology and F&OD.