The Learning Commons
At the University of Connecticut, Storrs
Memorandum of Understanding
April 1, 2009

**Description**  The Learning Commons is a student-centered, student-driven academic environment dedicated to promoting learning outside the classroom. It brings together, in one location, study and collaborative spaces, technologies, instruction and other assistance that cumulatively enable students to explore, research, develop, revise, and accomplish academic work across all disciplines. Here students have access to an array of tools including computer workstations; printers and scanners; research databases; academic software programs; technology-enhanced collaborative spaces; IT help; research advice; and tutoring.

The Learning Commons is a collaborative venture between the Learning Resource Center, the Library, the Q Center, and the Writing Center. Other partners may be added in the future.

**Location**  The Learning Commons proper is located on Level 1 of the Homer Babbidge Library and encompasses all of the public space currently available on this Level. While other services located in the library building directly support the Learning Commons (such as the Bookworms Café, library security, the lost and found, group studies on other floors, and the iDesk) the focus of the Commons is on Level 1.

**Assigned Spaces**  Learning Commons partners have assigned space in which to operate their individual programs. The Learning Commons also has significant space not devoted to any specific program operation but which is intended for individual and group learning.

**Ownership**  Learning Commons partners are responsible for providing the furniture, equipment, telecommunications, and staffing for their specific program. Security, custodial services, and signage will be coordinated by the Library.

**Office Space**  The Learning Commons space is set aside exclusively as public space; with the exception of the office of the Learning Resource Center Manager, who provides direct public service on a daily basis, no permanent staff offices are to be located in the Learning Commons proper.

**Building Policies**  Learning Commons staff shall observe the general policies of the Library Building, including policies regulating food and drink, security, and behavior.
**Hours of operation**  The Learning Commons area is open whenever the library is open, but individual programs shall set their own particular schedules. It is expected that services will be provided during peak hours Sunday – Thursday of the fall and spring academic terms.

**Governance**  The Learning Commons is governed by the Learning Commons Council, which establishes the general policies, procedures and practices of the Learning Commons; coordinates services within the Learning Commons; assesses the Learning Commons operation and function; and prepares recommendations regarding the further development of the Learning Commons.

**Learning Commons Council Membership**
- Writing Center Director
- Q Center Director
- Learning Resource Center Manager
- Library Undergraduate Education Team Leader
- Library IT Services Team Leader
- Facilities Librarian
- Chair of the Undergraduate Student Government Academic Affairs Committee

**Review**  The Learning Commons and the Learning Commons Council will be reviewed in two years from this date of April 1, 2009.

*Approved*

- David Avery
- Susanna Cowan
- Tom Deans
- Tony Molloy
- Steve Park
- Tom Roby
- Kay Bloomberg