Bunny Slippers at the Academic Library: More Community, More Learning?

Long Night

AGAINST PROCRASTINATION

Write through the Night

Join writers and academic support services
November 5 | 8 p.m. – 8 a.m. at the Main Library
PRESENTED BY THE WRITING CENTRE AND TRU LIBRARY

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

**Presented at the 2017
Alberta Library Conference
in Jasper, AB**

Who Are We?

- Elizabeth Rennie, Instruction & Research Services Librarian

- Julia Wells, User Engagement and Student Success Librarian

- Jenna Goddard, Writing Centre Coordinator and Lecturer (Student Success)

Who Are You?

…and what motivates you to write?

What is *Long Night Against Procrastination?*

- Overnight event held at the Library
- Peer support available
- Writing, research, and wellness support
- Workshops, food, and coffee

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Overview

1. **History, Rationale, & Goals**

2. **Logistics**

3. **Assessment, Evidence, & Reporting**

4. **Moving Forward & Discussion**

1. History, Rationale, & Goals

History of LNAP

- Began in Germany in 2010

- Now an international event

- First ever Canada-wide event was November 2014

- Original impetus was to avoid procrastination, build a community of writers, and find the joy in writing

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Institutional Rationale

- In-line with TRU's Strategic Priorities 2014-2019
  - Student Success
  - Intercultural understanding
  - Research capacity

- Enhance first year students' experiences
  - Opportunity to learn with peers in a supportive environment
  - Engage and learn from TRU's support services

Goals: Campus Partners

Student Services

- Create connections with academic supports

Library

- Reduce library anxiety and procrastination

Writing Centre

- Create a community of writers and improve upon the experience of writing papers

Faculty

- Inspire social learning and encourage time management

Event Goals

- Avoid procrastination

- Build campus community
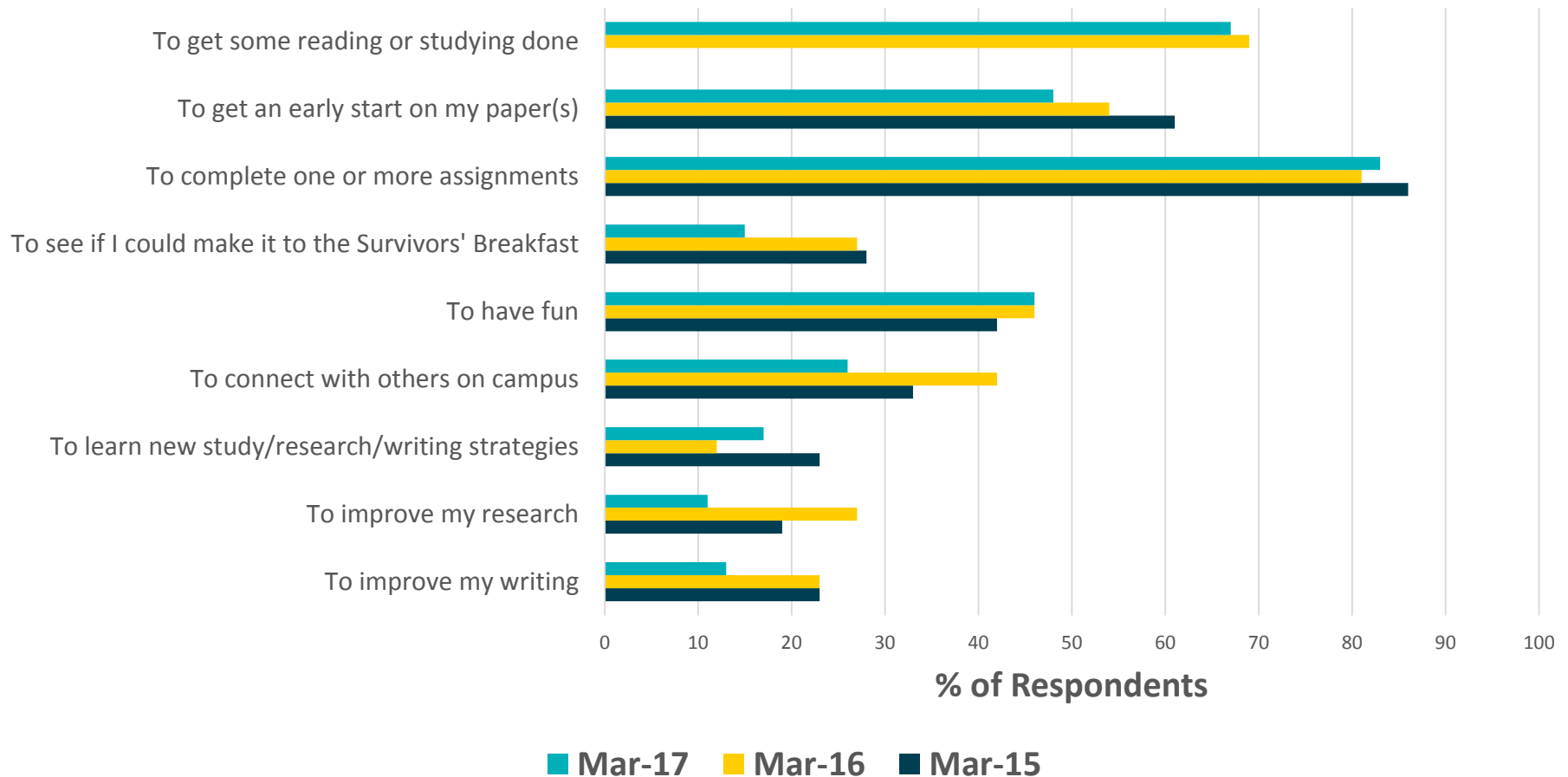
- Encourage engagement with academic supports

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Students' Goals:
Completing assignments (and having fun!)

Long Night Respondent Goals

Horizontal bar chart showing % of Respondents (x-axis from 0 to 100) for each goal, compared across Mar-17, Mar-16, and Mar-15.

To get some reading or studying done
To get an early start on my paper(s)
To complete one or more assignments
To see if I could make it to the Survivors' Breakfast
To have fun
To connect with others on campus
To learn new study/research/writing strategies
To improve my research
To improve my writing

% of Respondents

■ Mar-17   ■ Mar-16   ■ Mar-15

2. Logistics

Event logistics

- 200 – 300 students at each of 5 events

- We have names & email addresses for those who register and for those who attend

- 40-100 students make it to the 6am Survivors' Breakfast

- Follow-up survey sent to all attendees the week after:
  - Fluid Surveys
  - Approximately a 25% response rate
  - Are we getting feedback from those who were more engaged?

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Promotion

- Posters/banner
- Social media
- Word of mouth (class visits, house 5)
- Email (Writing Centre tutees, faculty)
- "walking billboard"

Staffing
(let's get creative!)

- Library Staff
  - All hands on deck (set-up, reference, circulation, making coffee, making popcorn, cleaning, etc.)

- Writing Centre tutors
  - Set-up, tutoring

- Volunteers

- Janitorial/Security
  - Games table, social media, clean-up

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Food and Supplies

- Snacks (veggie platters, granola bars, cookies, popcorn)

- Pizza

- Survivors' breakfast (breakfast sandwiches, fruit platters, oranges)

- Plates, cups, napkins, stir sticks, spoons, gloves

- Budget

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Long Night AGAINST PROCRASTINATION

Logistical Challenges

- Space/space limitations (age of building, lights, heat, breakers...)

- Planning (noise, space, tables/chairs)

- Snacks

- Registration process (100/200/300; walk-ins, technology malfunctions)

- Evolving library staffing

3. Assessment, Evidence, & Reporting

Did we connect with first year students?

Year of Study of LNAP Attendees
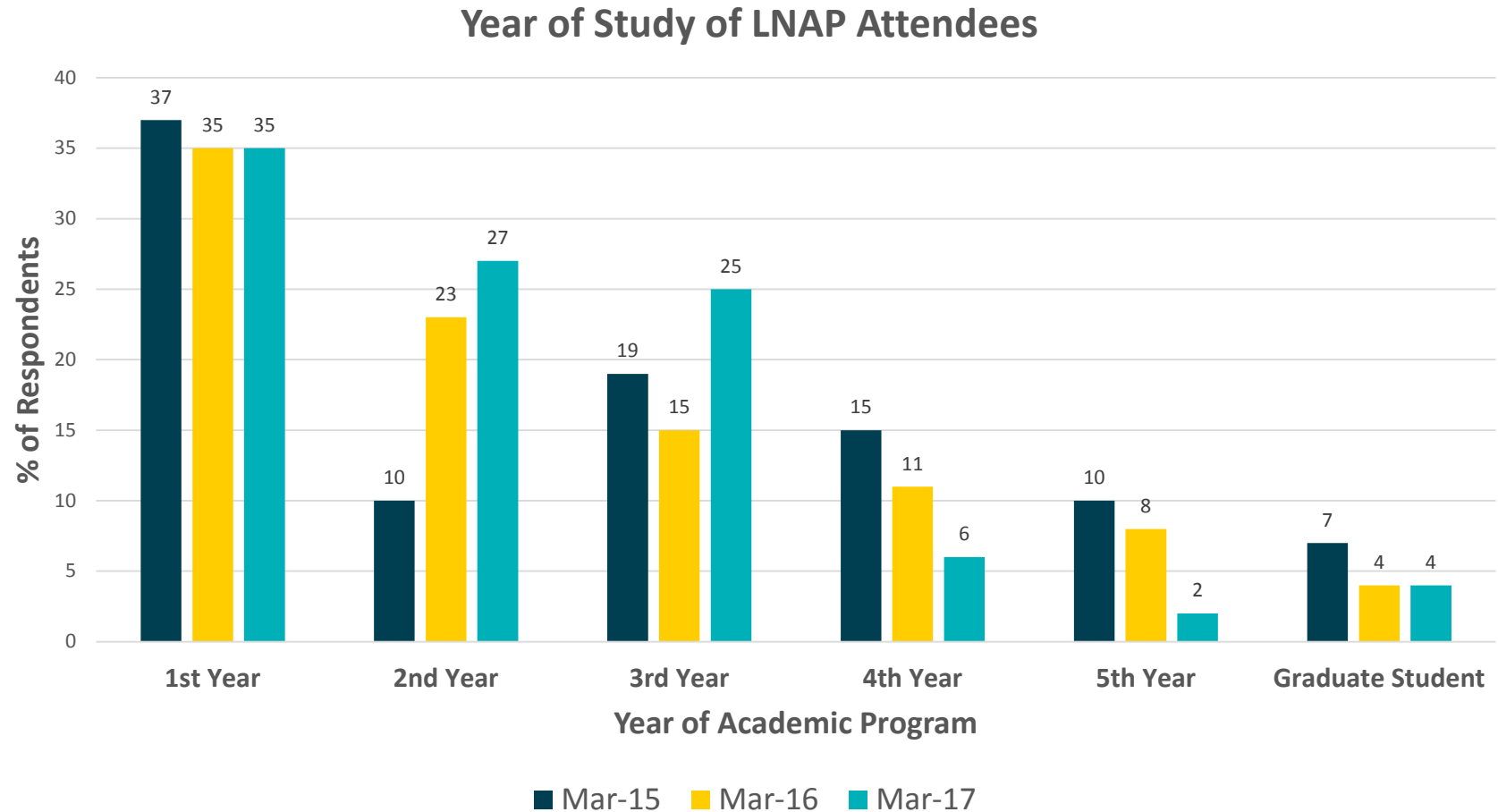
Did students feel they met their own goals?

Did Students Meet Their LNAP Goals?

% of Respondents — Response to whether they feel they met their goals

Response	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17
Yes	44	39	53
Some	51	62	43
No	5	0	4

■ Mar-15 ■ Mar-16 ■ Mar-17
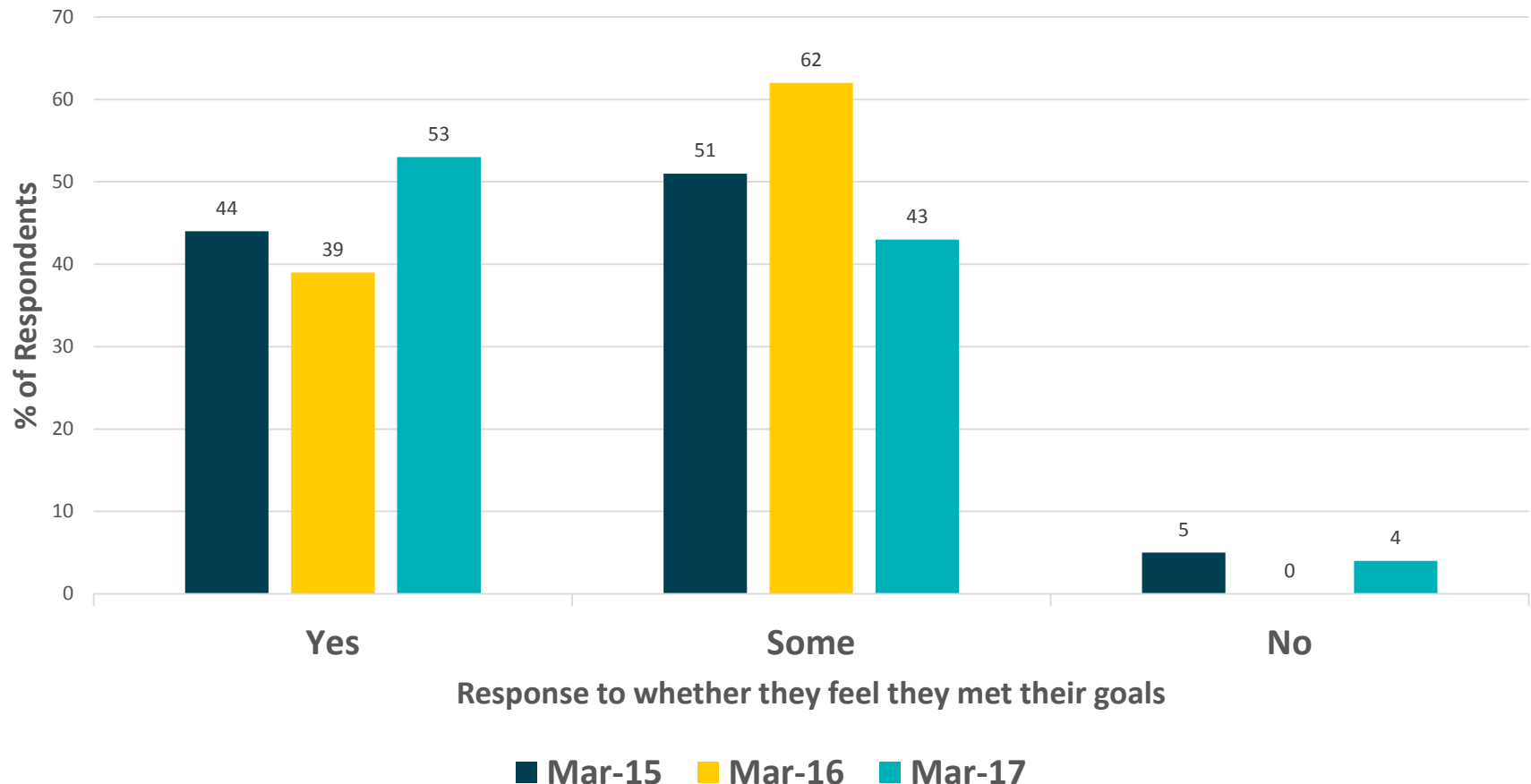
Are we encouraging procrastination?

If you worked on a paper at LNAP, when was it due?

- 2 weeks + after LNAP
- 1 week after LNAP
- 4-6 days after LNAP
- 2-3 days after LNAP
- The day after LNAP
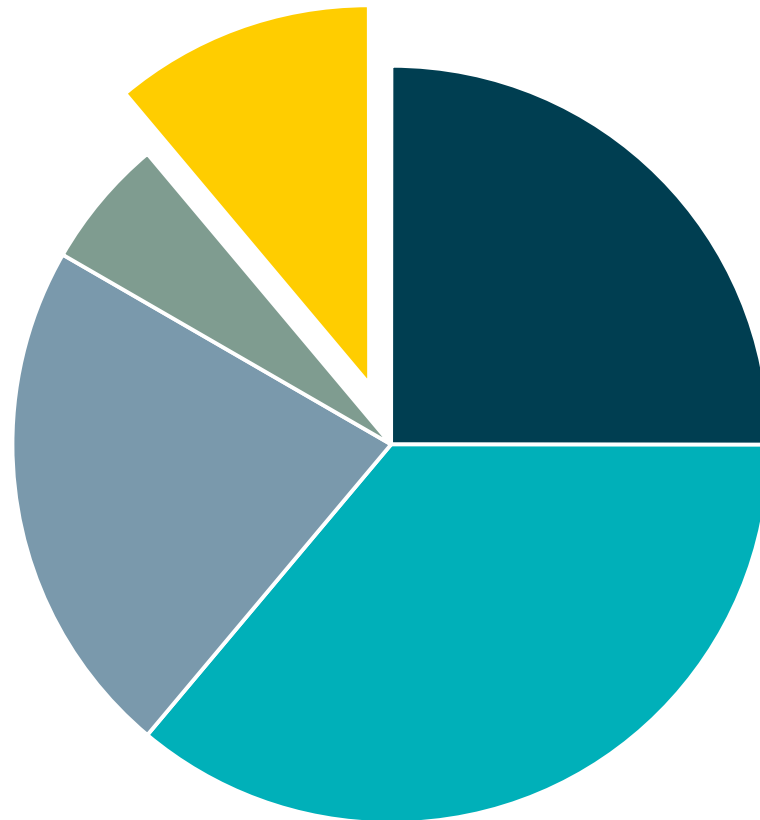
Did we create a community of writers?

"This event did an important job of bringing people together. I could see how people were pleasantly surprised to see their long lost friends; they greeted each other with smiles, cheered their peers throughout the night, and most importantly, got a lot of work done."

"It was my first year going and 100% worth it."
"I had fun with friends and still managed to get over 1000 words of a research essay done. Great setting"
"I went to have a supportive environment to start, finish, and get ahead on my assignments and papers for the semester and I finished almost everything!"
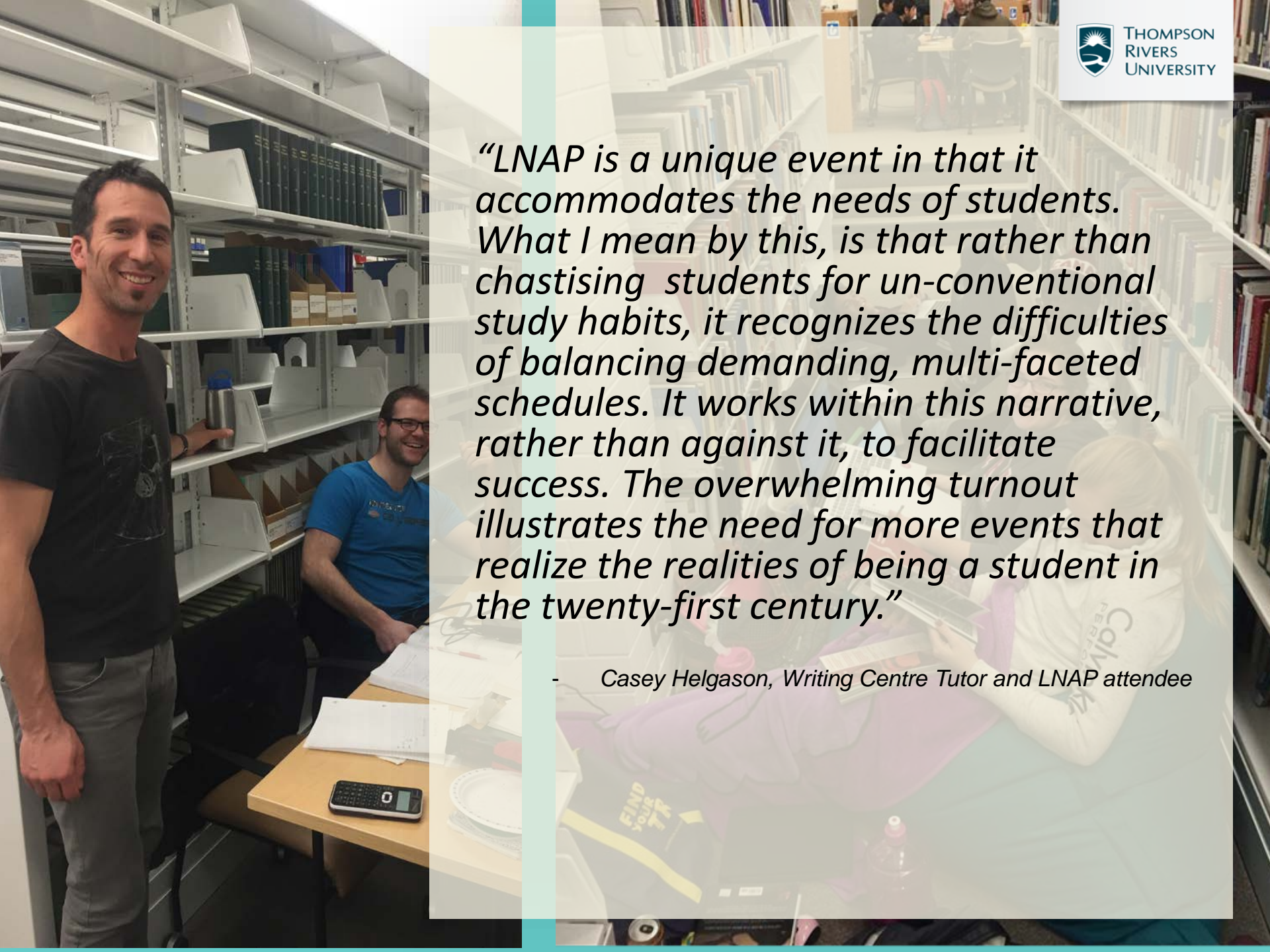"The fun and unique aspect of the event is that it goes all night...I and many of my friends wouldn't even bother going if it ended at 2 am; may as well stay home."
"I started writing my opinion paper 2 weeks before due and got an A!"

4. Changes, Moving Forward & Discussion

"LNAP is a unique event in that it accommodates the needs of students. What I mean by this, is that rather than chastising students for un-conventional study habits, it recognizes the difficulties of balancing demanding, multi-faceted schedules. It works within this narrative, rather than against it, to facilitate success. The overwhelming turnout illustrates the need for more events that realize the realities of being a student in the twenty-first century."

- Casey Helgason, Writing Centre Tutor and LNAP attendee

BUT you can't please everyone…

- *"It should be monthly, and definitely again during exams"*

- *"Have one more [the] week before final exams"*

- *"I was going to finish like 3 assignments and I just complete 1."*

- *"I got distracted"*

- *"I procrastinated." Ironic, I know.*

- *"Vegan options"*

- *"Make the 'quiet' area actually quiet"*

- *"MORE COFFEE"*

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Changes

- Structure/content of workshops
- Science writing workshop
- Messaging of event
- Safe Walk
- Games table

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Moving Forward and Discussion

- Workshops
  - Writing from different disciplines
  - Support for graduate students
  - Study skills
  - Holistic wellness: emotional, financial, etc.

- Pre-recorded workshops

- Thoughts? Suggestions? Questions?

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Selected Bibliography

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Thank-you! For further information, please refer to:
http://libguides.tru.ca/lnap

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