SNAP

Meeting students' needs with a large-scale multi-site finals week event

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Objectives

- Describe the event
- Share results of our survey
- Discuss our experiences putting on a large multi-site multi-day event

Outline

1. Provide background of the event and why we changed it
2. Describe the new format of the event
3. Research project
4. Quantitative results
5. Qualitative results
6. Things that worked
7. Things that didn't work
8. Key takeaways

Background

End of semester library events

- Increasingly popular
- What they have in common
- How they vary

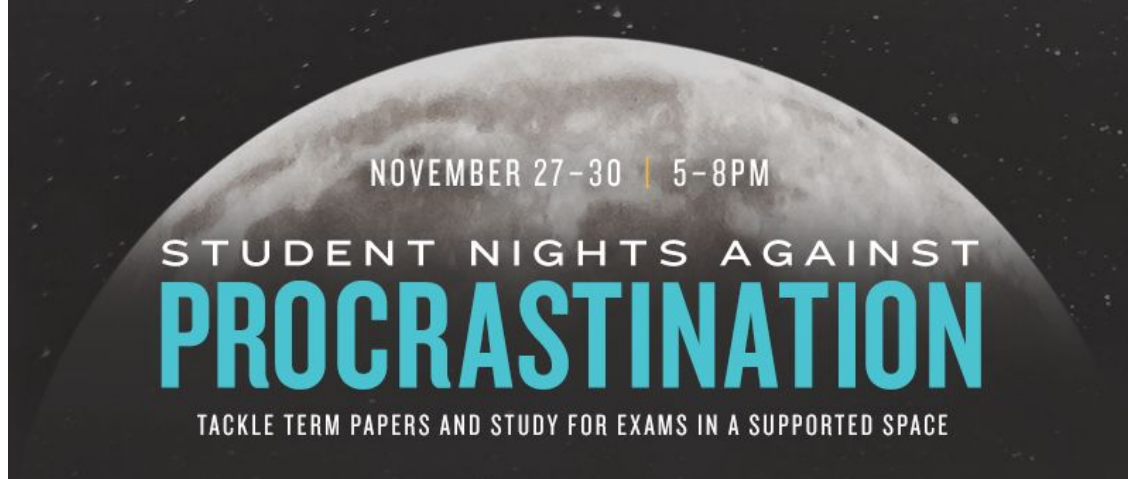# Long Night Against Procrastination

- Long Nights
- At UML
- Why change?

New Format

Student Nights Against Procrastination

- 4 days
- Evenings only (5-8pm)
- 3 sites
- Similar programming to previous event with a stronger focus on wellness

Student nights against procrastination cont'd

Wellness programming

- Scheduled breaks
  - Yoga
  - Student life
  - Crafts
- Passive breaks
  - Crosswords
  - Wordsearch
  - Sudoku
- Healthy snacks (free food)

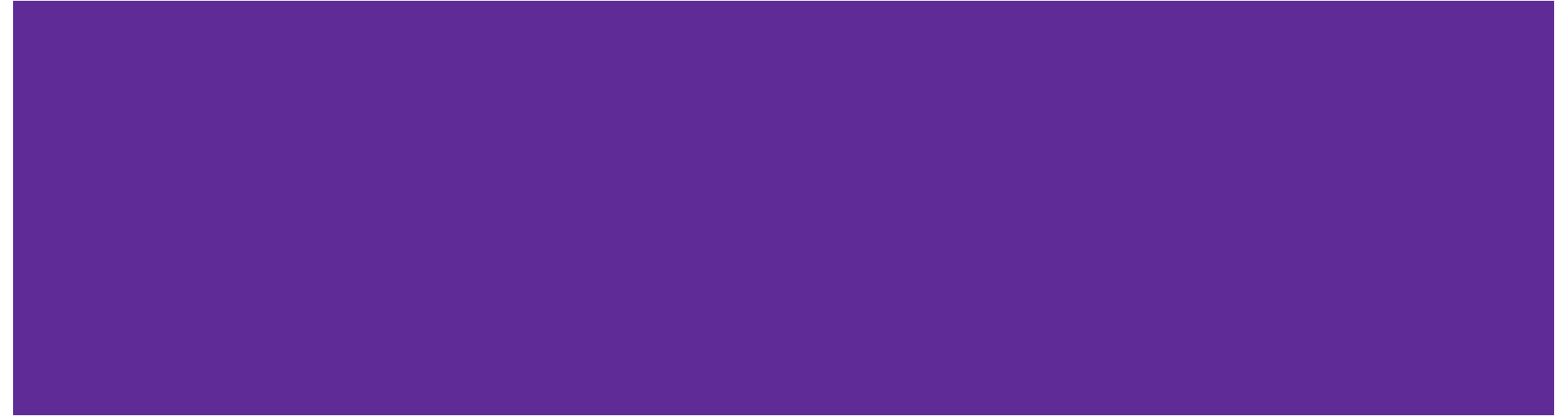# Student nights against procrastination cont'd

Academic programming

- Extended writing tutor drop-in hours
- Extended access to librarians
- 'SNAP series': 15-minute fringe-style mini sessions
  - Search Like A Pro
  - Evaluating Information
  - When to Cite
  - How to Cite
- 'Passive' ALC worksheets and handouts

Planning process

- Several external partners to coordinate
- Event coordinators for each site
- Student association volunteers
- Planning team
  - Librarian coordinators
  - Library assistants from each site
- 4-5 months

Research project

Survey

Participants: Students in attendance at evening programming offered in the Elizabeth Dafoe Library and/or Sciences and Technology Library at the Fort Garry campus.

Purpose: To better understand the library needs of students at the end of the semester and their satisfaction with current library offerings for that purpose. The survey takes approximately 3 to 5 minutes to complete.

Recruitment: Participants were recruited in 2 ways. Investigators asked students entering the library if they would participate in the study on an iPad, and students attending lab sessions were asked to participate on their lab workstations.
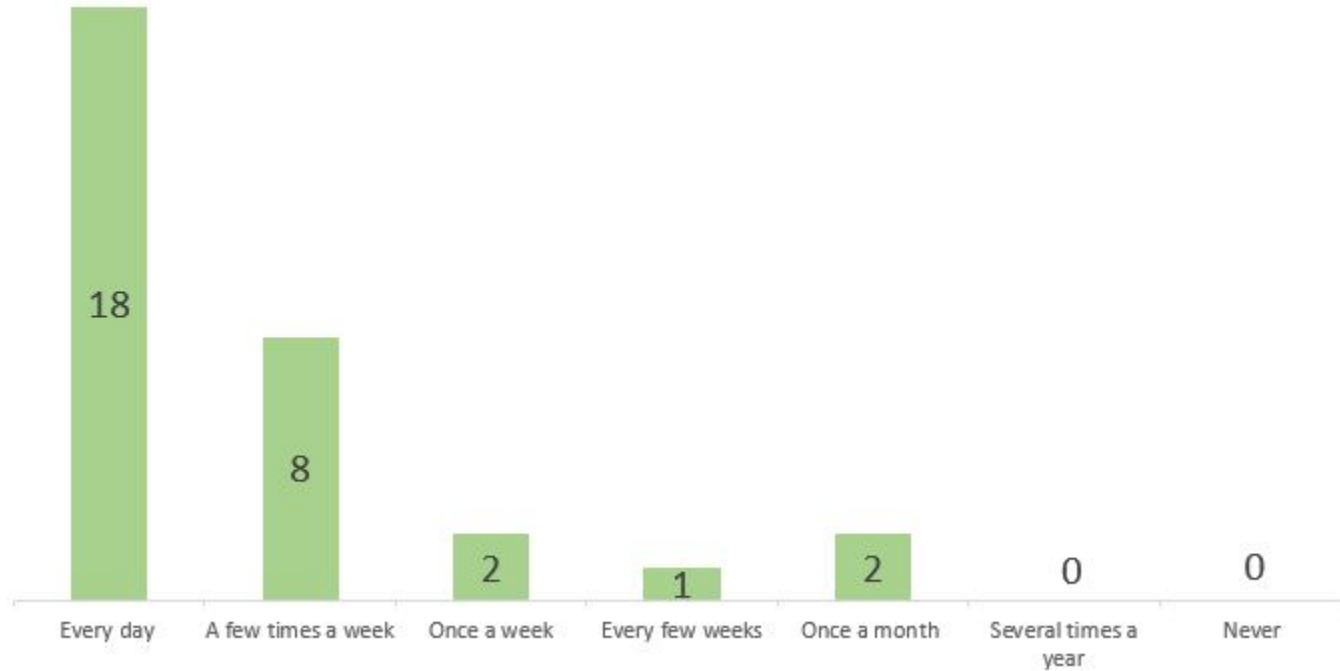
Survey questions

- Frequency of library visits
- Goal setting
- Value of event
- Improvement to event
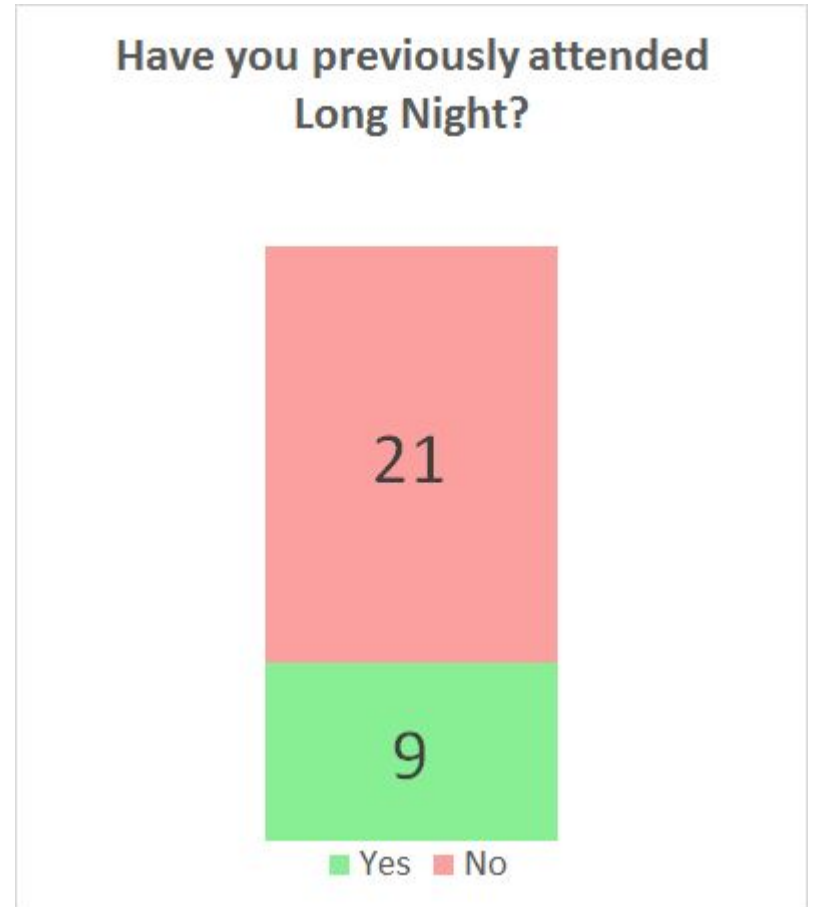- Previous event attendance (LNAP)
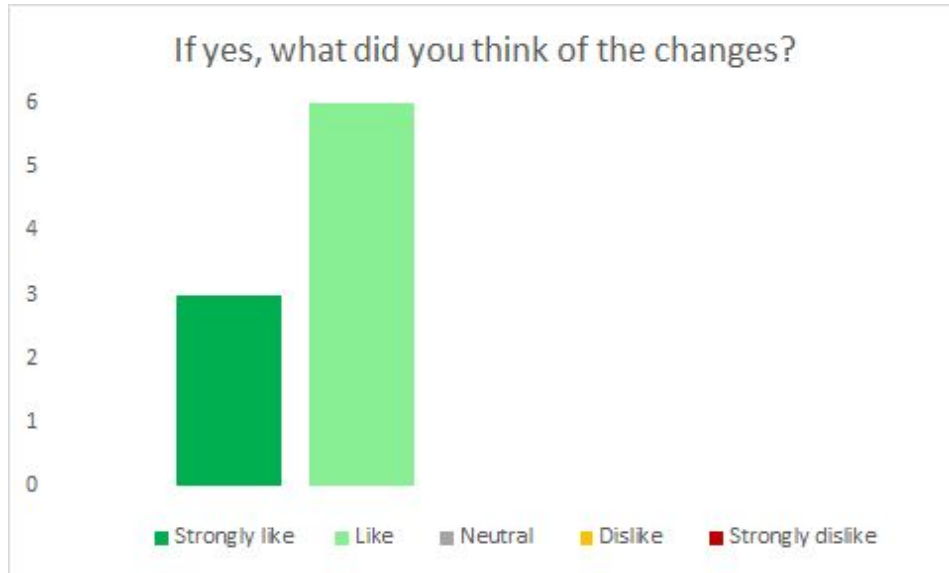
Quantitative Results

Frequency of library visits

Long night legacy

If yes, what did you think of the changes?

Have you previously attended Long Night?

Qualitative Results

- Responses to open questions were coded
- Identified a number of themes across questions

Happy place

Students felt comfortable because they had

       Academic supports

       Wellness activities

       Peers close by

"Being able to complete my work in a friendly, supportive environment while knowing that there are resources I can utilize throughout the night."

Peer support

Students liked studying in the library because

    They could study with their friends

    Even if they weren't there with friends, they had other students close by

    "Having the camaraderie and knowing people are in the same boat as you,

    in terms of studying for finals"

Academic support

Students provided feedback on the sessions they attended in the lab as part of the event in the survey.

Liked the session topics

Valued the expertise of librarian instruction

"The content was valuable to school work that I normally do"

Food

Students liked the free food.

Although the students liked the food, they were critical of the amount of food.

"More free food"

Advertising

Students wanted more advertising of the event

Students wanted advertisement to appear in places beyond the library

"By advertising it more so people know that the event actually going on meaning advertising outside of liabrary [sic]"
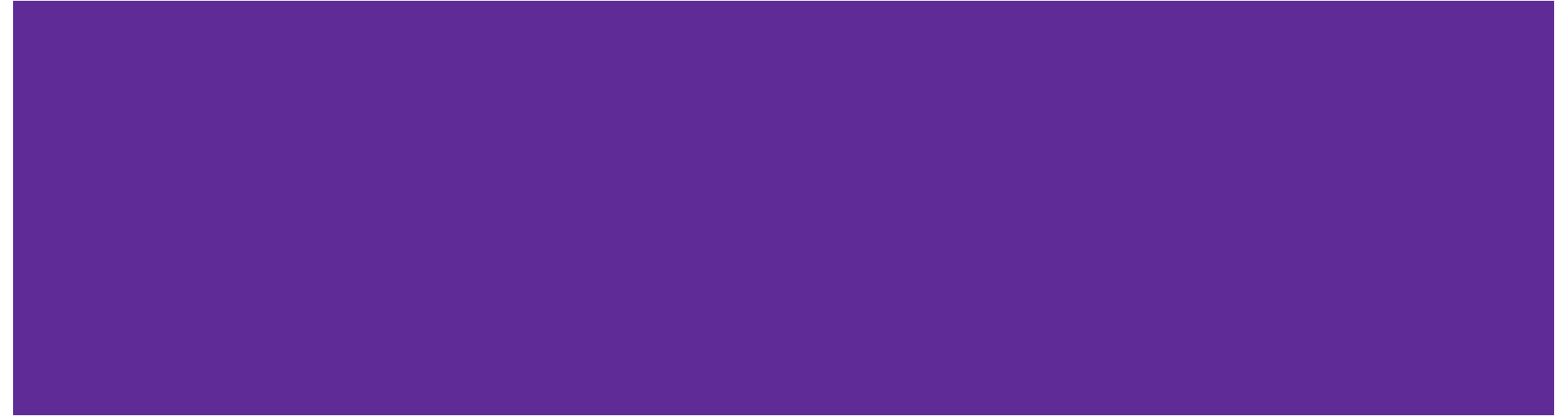
Timing of event

Students liked the fact that the event ran over more nights

"This year I feel like with the extra days I feel like I can accomplish more and I don't feel so rushed to finish my work in one night."

Students weren't sure about the timing of the event within the semester

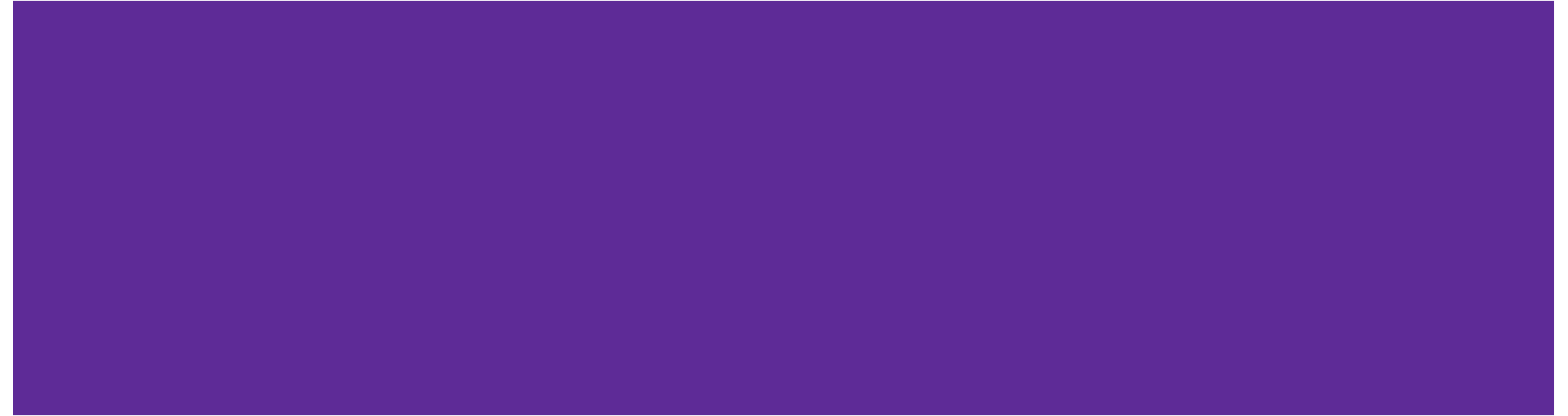"Maybe have this kind of event more often? Maybe during midterms as well as finals week"

Things that worked

- Easier "ask" of partners to participate in an evening event as opposed to overnight
- Safer for students (not going home in the wee hours)
- Healthier for students (encouraging better sleep habits)
- Student enjoyed basket of puns
- Students felt they were accomplishing goals
- Students had a sense of camaraderie
- Good attendance in mini workshops

Things that didn't work

- Scheduled break programming
    - More coordination with extra external partners
- High workload for library staff

Key Takeaways

- Students like end of semester events
- Students prefer passive programming
- Students love free food
- Event enhances existing library atmosphere
- Determining right time is tricky