

Talks.UW

UX Research Report

Koen De Couck
HCDE 593 Capstone (Milestone 1)

Executive Summary

- UW staff and students regularly give talks about their work and other activities.
- High familiarity with talks within their departments;
- Unfamiliar with talks outside their departments
- Communication about talks is mostly confined within departments (notice board, email).
- Information overload.

Many opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration remain untapped.

Talks.UW addresses this problem.

Strategic Goals

1. Provide an educational experience that equips our students to be leaders.
2. Increase diversity and access to foster excellence.
3. **Build interdisciplinary collaborations that inspire innovation.**
4. Create industry and community partnerships to increase our impact.
5. Focus on key global challenges where we can achieve greatest impact and excellence.
6. Enhance our visibility and reputation.



“The UW has an amazing array of resources—health, arts, culture, science, athletics, and more. **Right now it can be hard to access all that makes this place great because of information overload. It is also challenging to connect with people who share similar interests, but work in different parts of the University.** The goal of The Whole U is to make all of this a little bit easier by fostering community, sharing ways to stay healthy, and promoting the great benefits and services available to UW faculty and staff.”



Talks.uw is an online web platform that allows anyone to share the details of a talk – date and time, venue, speaker, and abstract – making publicity for seminar series

- simpler,
- Efficient
- more visible.

In doing so, talks.uw addresses the university's strategic goal of greater collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas.

“Talks.uw is a proposed online calendar platform that shows all talks happening around UW campus. In addition to the main calendar it offers advanced search functionality and info on the talk, speaker or series. Users will be able to use their UW login to search by title, author, theme or any combination of parameters. In addition, talks.uw makes adding talks or finding a speaker series’ email list a lot easier. By creating greater visibility of all talks happening on campus, talks.uw cultivates the exchange of ideas both on campus and its wider community.”



Source: Master student Koen De Couck



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Information on

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[Adding a talk](#) ➔

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Search for a talk, series, speaker or venue

e.g. Surfaces and strings, Darwin lectures, Thomas Young, meerkat, Lord Adonis

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Featured lists

[Psychology and Religion Research Group \(PRRG\)](#)

[CAPE-CIKC Advanced Technology Lectures](#)

[Dirac Lecture](#)

Featured talks

Wednesday 23 April



Cambridge Public Policy Lecture: Rt Hon Vince Cable, MP
Rt Hon Vince Cable, MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation
and Skills and President of the Board of Trade

Friday 25 April



Recent developments in Open Access publishing (provisional title)
Ben Johnson, BioMed Central

Monday 28 April



William Courten (1642–1702) and natural history
Sachiko Kusakawa (Trinity College, Cambridge)

Tuesday 29 April



Modelling the Risks of Climate Change - Dr. Chris Hope
Dr. Chris Hope

Wednesday 30 April

The Theory of Democracy and the Legacy of Juan J. Linz
Jeffrey Miley. University of Cambridge

UCSD ► Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events

University Communications and Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO



Events

Today's Events
This Week's Events
Next Week's Events

Find By Date

April 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

➔ Add an Event

Related Calendars

Lectures/Seminars

Results: 32 event(s) found.

The Digital Revolution in Healthcare: What healthcare professionals need to know

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 from 8:00 AM

Location: Rady School of Management

This course is unique because it is so new and also synchronized with San Diego's leading edge on the wireless revolution. [more](#)

Recovering the Arab Queer: How to a write a historical and "lesbian" novel set in 9th century Iraq (and why does it even matter)

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 from 6:30 PM

Location: Literature Building Room 155 (de Certeau)

Recovering the Arab Queer: How to a write a historical and "lesbian" novel set in 9th century Iraq (and why does it even matter) [more](#)

Tough Cases: Should a second transplant be granted to a patient lost to post-transplant follow-up care?

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 from 12:00 PM

Location: UCSD Medical Center Room 11-309 (Hospital In-Patient Tower)

The Tough Cases ethics discussion series is supported by the Allen Lein Ethics in Medicine Fund and meets once monthly. For more information, visit: <http://ethics.ucsd.edu/seminars/cases.html> [more](#)

Search for Events:

GO! ➔

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Concerts/Bands

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Health Sciences

Continuing Education
Graduate Medical Education
HS Special Events
Health Sciences Classes
Medical Center
SOM Alumni
School of Medicine
School of Pharmacy

Lectures/Seminars

Arts & Humanities
Classes
Economics
Engineering
Health Sciences
Sciences

Methods

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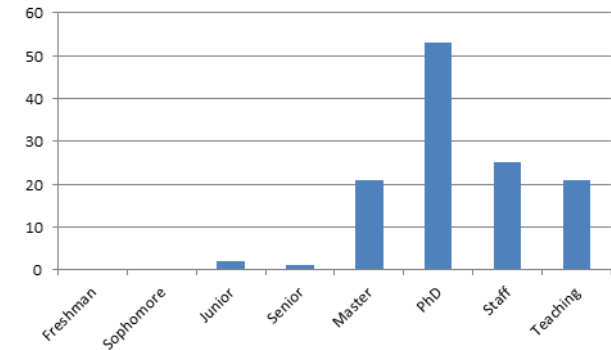
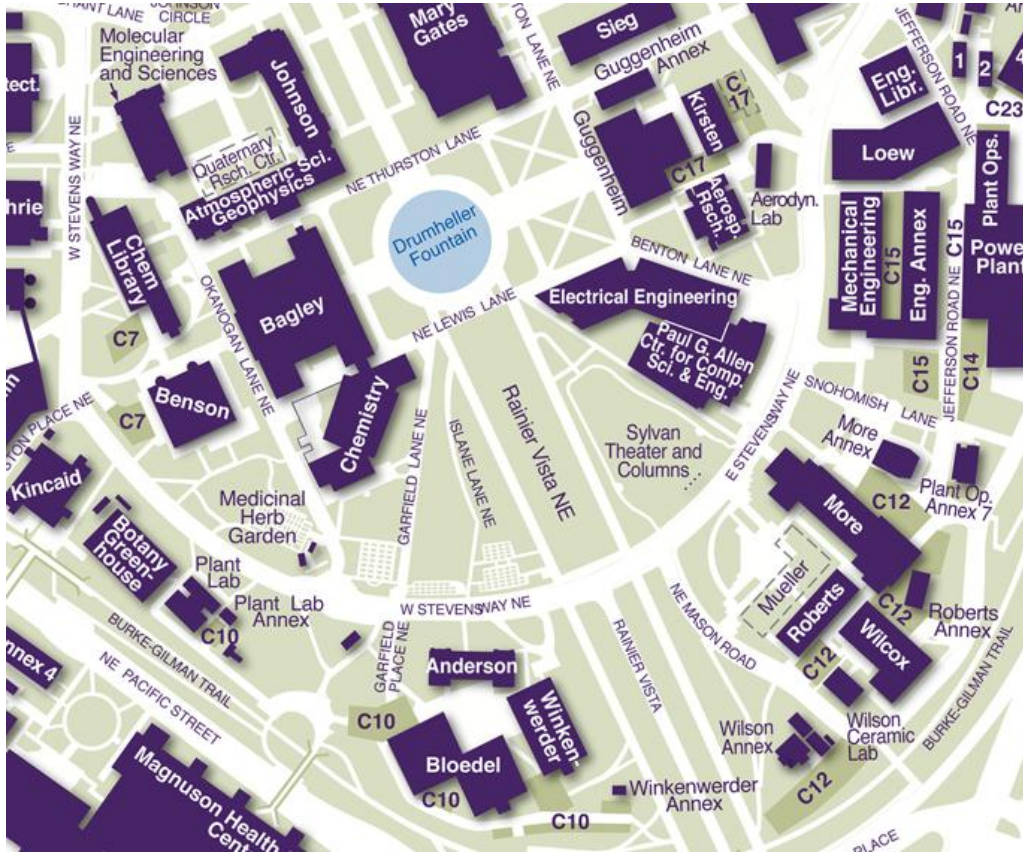
HCDE 593 Capstone (Milestone 1)

Personal Interviews

- N = 12
 - Interviewees were master students (n = 6), PhD (4) and teaching staff members (2)
 - HCDE, CSE, iSCHOOL, Mechanical Engineering
- Interviewees were mainly asked about their experience attending, their current means and needs. Additional information was gathered from survey feedback given by respondents from other departments.

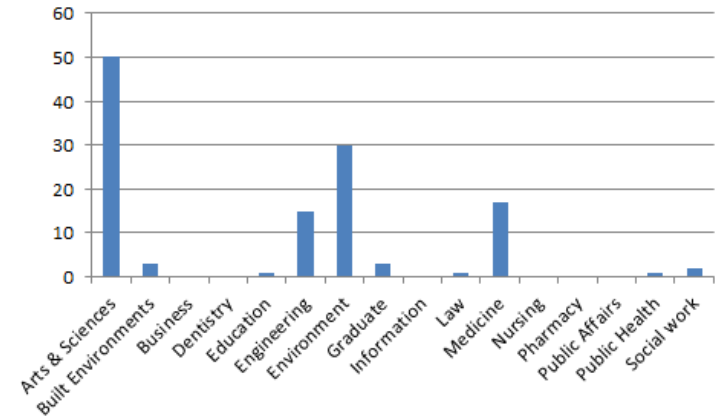
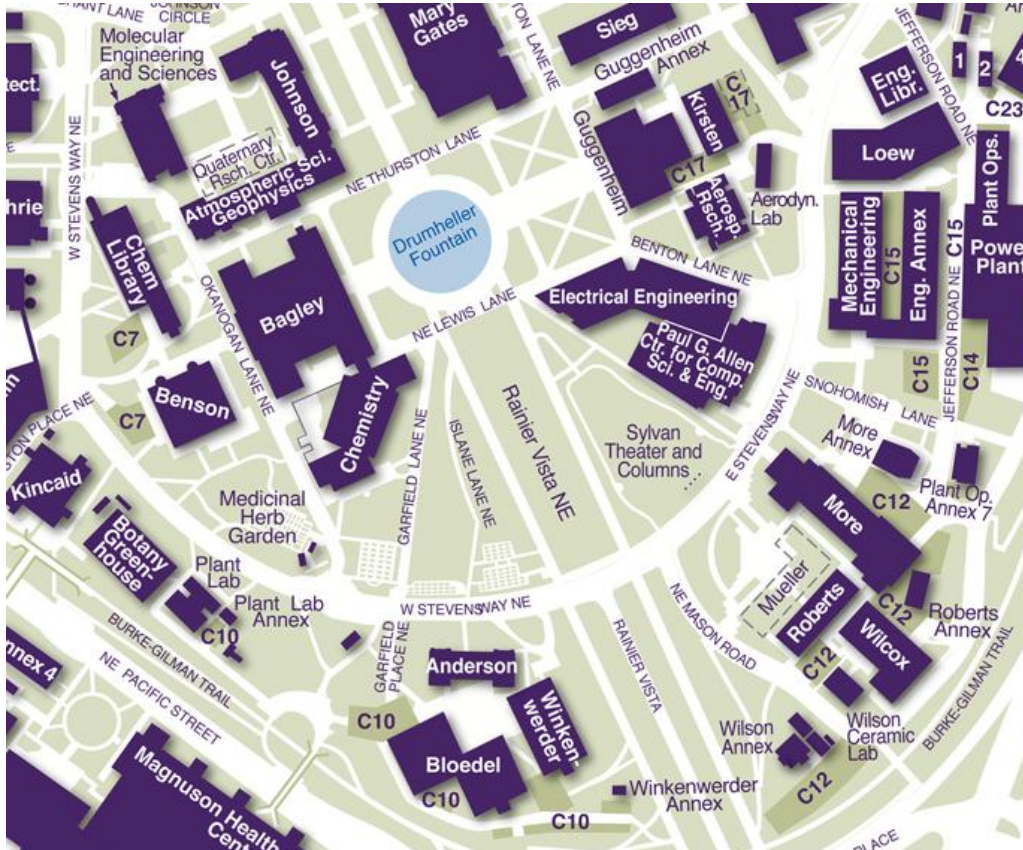


Campus Survey



- N = 122
- Master students (21), PhD (53), support staff (25) and teaching staff (21)

Campus Survey



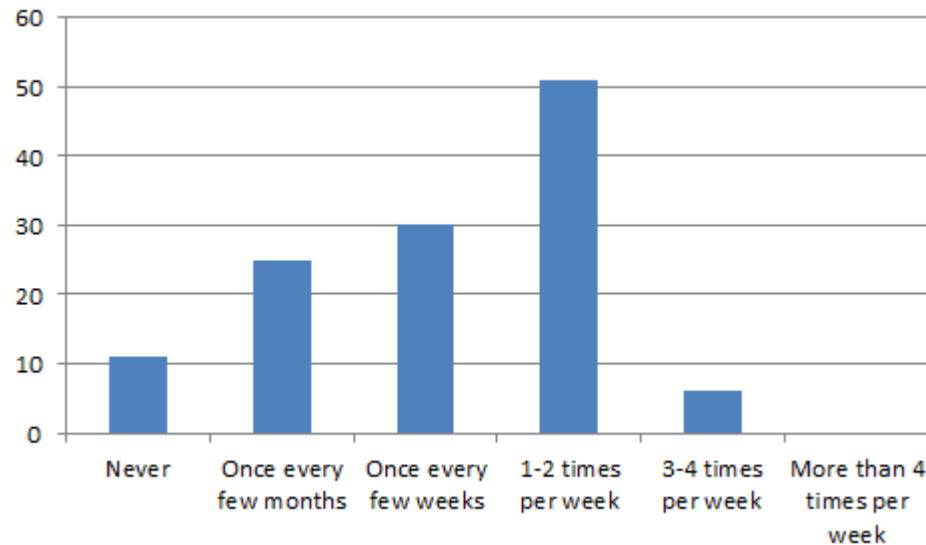
- N = 122
- All UW departments
- (Note: still running!)

Results

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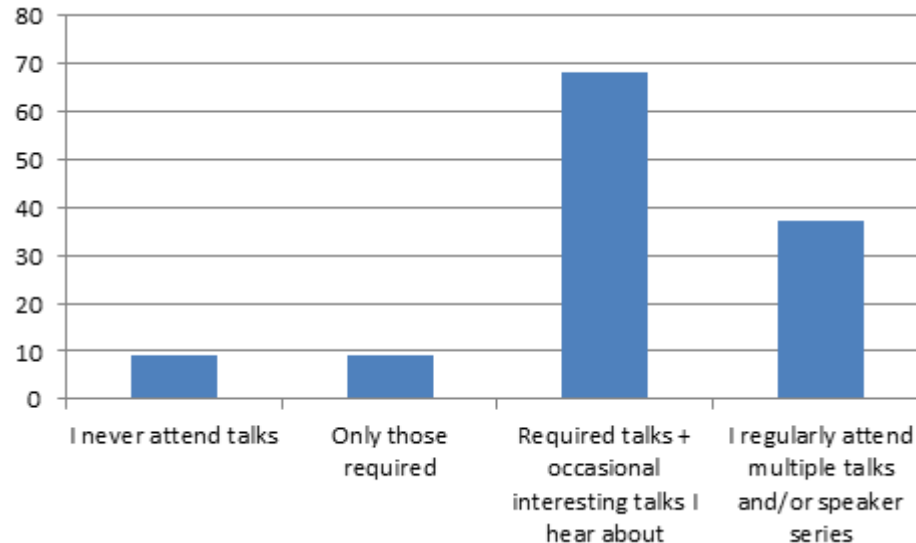
HCDE 593 Capstone (Milestone 1)

How often do you typically attend a talk at UW?



There is a large spread amongst people's attendance to talks. Interviewed master students reported a lower attendance than PhD or faculty. Weekly department talks were mentioned the most. Attending talks was subject to other demands on time and availability.

In what capacity do you typically attend talks at UW?

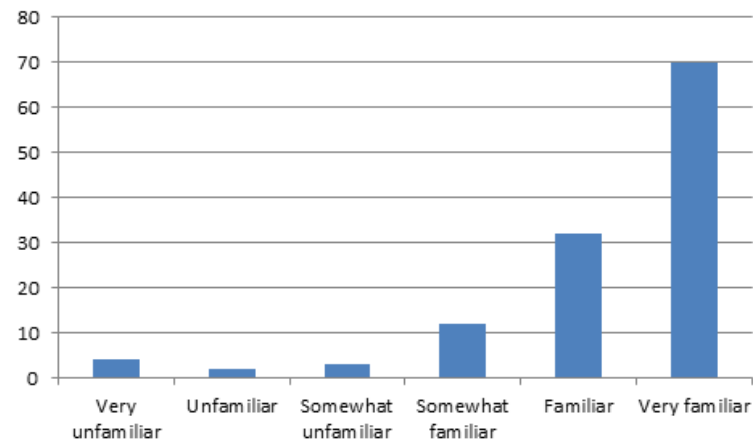


Huskies are sincerely interested in intellectual debate. A majority of people indicate they love exploring interesting talks that make them re-think their own professional practice or enhance their work. Many of them regularly attend talks.

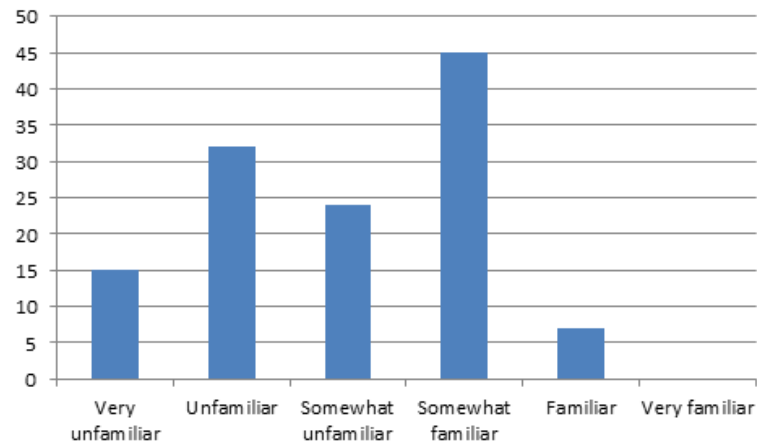
HOWEVER

Many experience difficulty of keeping track what happens on campus, or getting the word out about limited time opportunities from their own department.

How familiar are you with the regular talk series organised ... inside your own department?



...outside your own department?



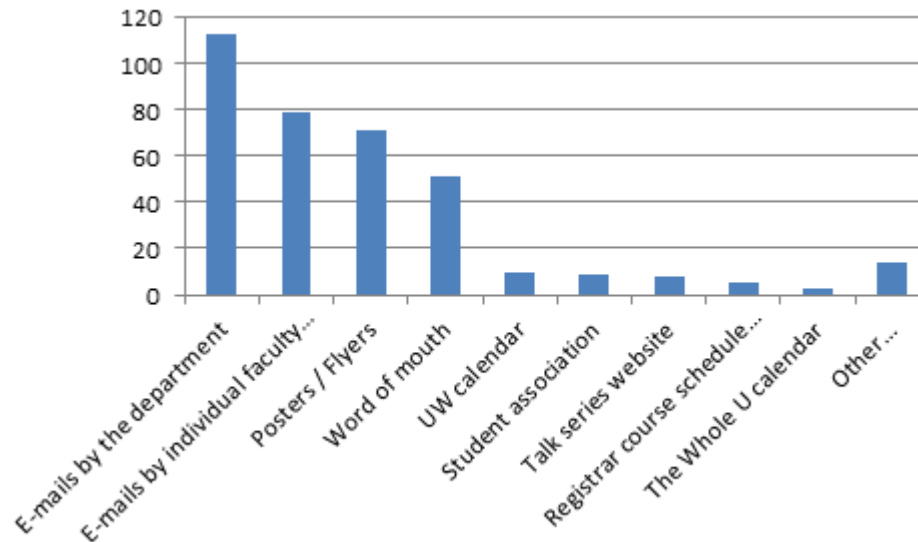


“It is unbelievable that this University does not have a centralized, searchable, calendar of all talks on campus [...] Not only is it difficult to find out what is going on in other departments, it is hard to inform them of an interesting talk by a guest of mine. It is crazy!”

– M. (Department of Physics)

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How do you usually find out about talks happening at UW?



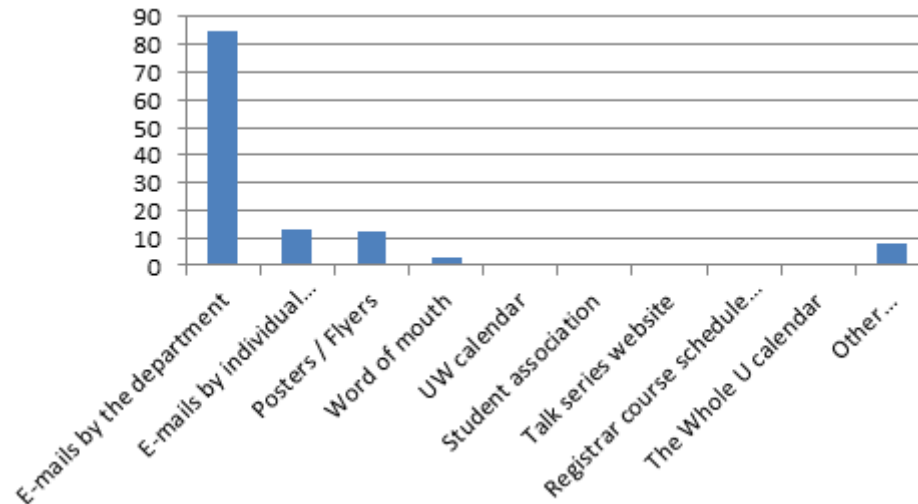
Interviews revealed many parallels amongst the different channels currently used by students and staff to communicate upcoming talks. Both interviewees and survey respondents indicated they were most likely to be informed by **emails from the department or individual staff**. Occasionally their attention was drawn by a **poster or flyer** on the notice board or they heard about it from one of their **peers or colleagues**. None of the interviewees relied on any of the online calendars available at UW. When asked about this, interviewees said they knew of such resources but that the information provided was not relevant enough to their own individual interests.



“I don’t want things cluttering my schedule. I will create a calendar event myself if I’m interested in attending a talk. I don’t like how many of the existing calendars force all of that unwanted content on me. There’s no option to filter it, so I don’t use it”

- E. (Human Centered Design and Engineering)

Which is your primary way of finding out about talks at UW?



Information overload was mentioned as a serious issue, with many interviewees commenting on the high amount of email they receive (not all of it relevant to their interests)



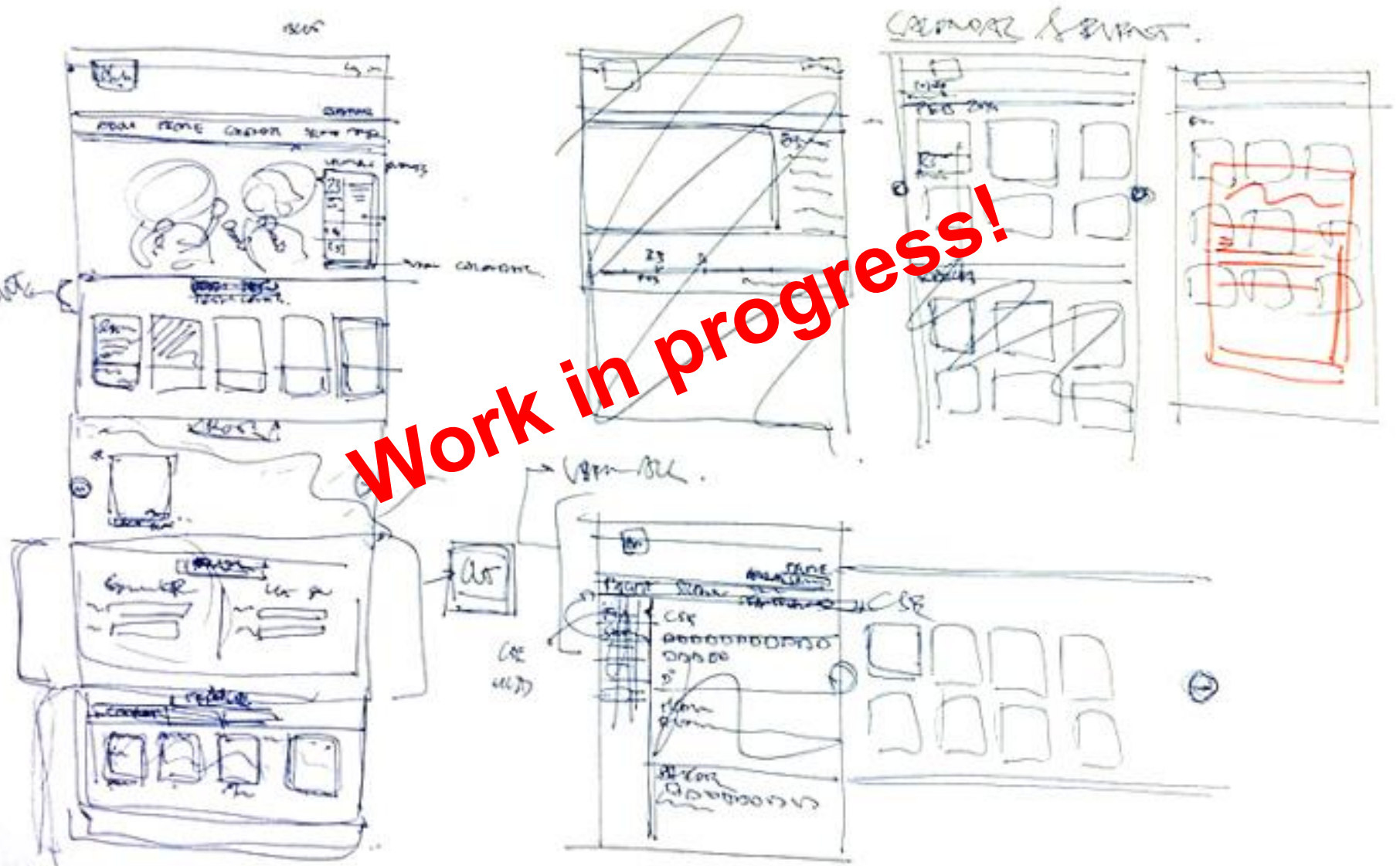
“I receive a large number of updates on other department's seminars a few times a week. It would be great if students and faculty could receive a mass digest of talks of interest instead of receiving multiple emails.”

– A. (Department of Biomedicine)

The Next Step – Moving from Research to Design

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Questions?

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Addendum: Focus group



Three HCDE master students discussed the required elements for a proposed talks.uw platform. All three students wrote that using a unified platform would likely increase their attendance to talks from other disciplines. However, ease of use would be key.

The repeating idea that emerged was: *The existing calendar systems are impractical to use, as they add rather than solve the issue of information overload.*