

BOLT Steering Committee Minutes
30 October 2006

Discussion of Language for BOLT roles and identities

- Application time approaches, and we want to be able to tell people for what they are applying. Much (but not all of) Steering Committee decided last week that it didn't like the term participant and most people in attendance found the term leader-trainer to be problematic. So here we go. For some silly reason this is organized thematically. For the chronological thinkers, comments are numbered in the order they were made.
- Background:
 - Last week we discussed three different types of language shifts:
 - Leader/LT/LM shifts to BOLTer/Leader/Mentor
 - Leader/LT/LM shifts to L-i-T (Leader-in-Training)/LT/LM
 - Leader/LT/LM shifts to something altogether different, like a nature analogy using cycles of growth and development, such as tadpoles and frogs.
 - People have asked if you need to apply to become an LM.
 - There is no application—any LT who wants to be an LM can be and is an LM.
 - Is it just the communication (or lack of communication) that has created the perception that one needs to “make a cut” to become an LM?
- Important Broader thoughts to consider:
 - For whom are we clarifying our language (2-Lamya) and what is our audience (3-Caitie)?
 - We want this language to reflect not just the trip, but all of the year-round aspects of BOLT (13-Shelley)
- Discussion moved such that the nature metaphors were dropped out for a variety of reasons and the focus shifted to the first two plans listed.
- Discussion of the term Leader used for those who were originally called participants:
 - “Leader” doesn't always mesh well with community (6-Liz).
 - It's hard to be a leader and a participant at the same time (12-Liz).
- Discussion of the term LiT for those who were originally called participants:
 - It makes sense and it fits into the leadership theme (1-Holly).
 - It assumes a lot of growth for only five days (4-Liz).
 - BOLT is more about exploring these ideas than actually being “trained” (5-Rachel)
- Discussion of the term BOLTer for those who were originally called participants:
 - “BOLTer” plugs you directly into the BOLT community (7-Caitie).
 - I like BOLTer (8-Rachel), it feels active (9-Caitie), and it sounds fun (10-Lamya).

- It has no baggage (11-Ben) and it is a more inclusive term (12-Rachel)
- Decisions on BOLTer:
 - If we're leaning towards BOLTer, what next (14-Caitie)?
 - Our consensus likes Leader for those who were originally called leaders.
 - We like BOLTer. Everyone can always be a BOLTer.
- Discussion of the term Leader Mentor
 - I like the idea of recognizing the LMs for the work they do (15-Caitie).
 - Does the role of LM distance the former leaders from the present ones (16-Shelley)?
 - What is LM is only used when in the act of training (16-Liz)?
 - You're always going to be a leader once you've been a leader (17-Lamya).
 - What if LT was the exclusive and problematic term from the beginning, pushing away the other terms (18-Jesse)?
 - We were actually L-i-Ts [in the spring of 06] and then became leaders "graduating" [into a leader class], but this is problematic too [on the topic of there being an LT-LM divide linguistically and/or realistically] (19-Rachel).
 - Ben asked where Rachel found the shift to be.
 - I did BOLTer—Leader—Mentor (20-Caitie).
- Plan:
 - We seem to like BOLTer—Leader—Mentor. It makes sense to us, and it allows you to be more than one thing at once, as it's less of a graduation process whereby some are left behind and more of a time spent process. Everyone in BOLT is still a BOLTer and all Mentors are just leaders who give time to help with the training process. Therefore, there was only one class of BOLT Leader-Trainers ever.
 - We should ask the "BOLTERS" how they feel about being BOLTERS. Which is more diminutive? BOLTer or Participant or Leader (noting the expectations and assumptions about each)?
 - We will send a big explanation email to all Leaders (new terminology in place) to solicit feedback and opinions.

Sorry for the delayed and confusing meeting minutes; they will go out faster next time!

jc