

General Faculties Council  
**TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting 54  
October 24, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

A167

***Voting Members***

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair  
Dawn Johnston, Academic Co-Chair  
Mohamed Abdelsamie – arrived during Item 4  
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting  
Jessica Ayala  
Wendy Benoit  
Catherine Burwell  
Tracey Clancy  
Kevin Dang  
Fabian Neuhaus  
David Paskevich  
Scott Radford  
Elena Rangelova

***Non-Voting Members***

Kent Donlevy – left during Item 7  
Patti Dyjur  
Natasha Kenny  
Melanie King Rosario  
Kim Lenters – arrived during Item 5

***Secretary and Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Susan Barker  
Geoff Crowe  
Diane Gereluk  
Kent Hecker  
Christie Hurrell  
Nickie Nikolaou  
Mary-Jo Romaniuk

***Guests***

Karen Jackson, General Counsel – present for Item 4  
Erin Kaipainen, Senior Specialist, Experiential Learning, Taylor Institute – present for Item 5

---

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the October 24, 2019 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

## **2. Remarks of the Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair**

The Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Melanie King Rosario, Management and Professional Staff representative, and Fabian Neuhaus, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape representative, were welcomed to their first meeting, and Scott Radford, Haskayne School of Business representative, was welcomed back for the term
- This is a busy time of year, and members are encouraged to practice self-care
- The provincial budget is being announced this afternoon

## **3. Approval of the September 19, 2019 Minutes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on September 19, 2019 be approved.

**Carried**

## **4. Statement on Free Expression**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Karen Jackson presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reviewed the development of the University's Statement on Free Expression, and reported that the current draft seeks to comply with the provincial government's requirements while reflecting the University's culture
- Discussion included that:
  - The University's Statement expresses that there are limits to free expression
  - Instructors have the authority to manage speech within the classroom. It was observed that workshops such as Teaching Controversial Issues, facilitated by Carol Berenson, Educational Development Consultant in the Taylor Institute (TI), are helpful to instructors.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Because hate speech and defamation are defined by law, it is not necessary to define these in the Statement
  - There will be a communications plan to coincide with the publication of the Statement, and this will include links to related University policies and procedures such as the Code of Conduct. The University's commitment to an environment of respectful and civil free expression will be made explicit.
  - Some of the language in the University's existing policies and procedures, such as the Sexual Violence Policy, may not match with the new Statement, and so these will be reviewed

- The Committee learned that the Statement will be submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education before the November 15, 2019 deadline, and that the Ministry will be reviewing the document to ensure that it reflects the eight principles the Ministry requires. Once the Ministry's feedback is received, the Statement will be brought back to the General Faculties Council for discussion and to the Board of Governors for approval. The Statement will be posted publicly by the deadline of December 15, 2019.

## **5. Experiential Learning Plan 2019-2025**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), and Erin Kaipainen presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The proponents described the development of the Experiential Learning Plan (2019-2025), which sets out the University's priorities and goals for Experiential Learning (EL)
- Discussion included:
  - That having a clear definition of EL is important, in part to promote the use of common language which will aid in tracking students' EL experiences. The University does not currently have an effective system for tracking EL.
  - That Work-Integrated Learning, a type of EL, includes cooperative education, internship, and professional practicum
  - Whether Entrepreneurship should be identified as a sixth category of EL (alongwith Work-Integrated Learning, Co-Curricular EL, Research-based EL, Curriculum-integrated EL, and Community-engaged Learning). After consideration, the Committee suggested that Entrepreneurship should not be listed as a standalone category of EL within the Experiential Learning Plan as it crosses into the other categories.
  - Whether the Experiential Learning Plan should set as a goal that students "will have the opportunity" to participate in EL or "will" participate in EL, and the Committee concluded that the flexibility offered by the word 'opportunity' is desirable at this time. It was noted that, once EL is better established and tracked, this language could be revisited.
  - That two opportunities for EL for undergraduate students and one opportunity for EL for graduate students are reasonable goals
  - That EL must be high-impact, and must include a component of reflection upon completion. It was noted that what constitutes 'high-impact' must be clearly defined, and that students may need guidance with critical reflection.
  - That it must be considered how graduate students in course-based, online, and professional programs will have an opportunity for EL
  - Not all of the University's EL initiatives will be listed on the new centralized platform, and so internal data on EL will also be gathered from sources such as PeopleSoft, the co-curricular record, and individual reporting
  - That interdisciplinary opportunities are desired by many students
  - Whether there is a difference between "high impact" and "high quality", and it was suggested that the phrase "high quality" be used throughout the document

- The proponents requested that any additional feedback be sent directly to them

## **6. Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning Report**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Natasha Kenny presented this item.

Highlights:

- The deadline for applications to the Teaching and Learning Grants program is October 28, 2019. Members of the Committee were encouraged to volunteer as adjudicators and to share this opportunity with their colleagues.
- The COHERE (Canada's Collaboration for Online Higher Education Research) conference will be held at the University from November 14-15, 2019
- The University's Teaching Academy recently released a Mentorship Guide for Teaching and Learning
- The TI staff have been working with staff in the Registrar's Office and Information Technologies to improve the time it takes to create D2L shells. Effective this term, shells will now be created 10-14 days earlier than has been possible previously, which will give instructors more time to design their courses.

## **7. Students' Union Report**

Kevin Dang, Students' Union (SU) representative to the Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The deadline to nominate for the SU Teaching Excellence Awards is October 25, 2019, and the adjudication committee will begin classroom visits soon
- The SU Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held November 26-28, 2019 in MacEwan Hall. The symposium has attracted a record number of applicants, and 115 presenters will be chosen.

## **8. Graduate Students' Association Report**

Mohamed Abdelsamie, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) representative to the Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The deadline to submit abstracts for the Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium is November 18, 2019, and the symposium will be held January 28-30, 2020. The theme for the symposium is Innovation Through Collaboration.
- The nominations process for the GSA Teaching Excellence Awards will begin in January

**9. Approved 2019-2020 TLC Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

**10. Identification of Take-aways**

The Committee identified the following take-aways from the meeting that should be shared with colleagues:

- The EL Plan, and it was agreed that a version of the document, clearly marked as draft, would be made available for sharing
- The Mentorship Guide for Teaching and Learning
- The Statement on Free Expression
- That requests for new D2L course shells will be processed more quickly now

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**12. Adjournment**

The October 24, 2019 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

---

Elizabeth Sjogren  
Meeting Secretary