



General Faculties Council
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 61
October 20, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Amy Warren, Academic Co-Chair
Semhar Abraha
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting
Jessica Ayala
Wendy Benoit
Barbara Brown
Tracey Clancy
Diane Gereluk
Dawn Johnston
Diane Lorenzetti
Alex Paquette – left during Item 5, rejoined during Item 7
David Paskevich
Elena Rangelova

Regrets

Fabian Neuhaus
Nickie Nikolaou
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Leighton Wilks
Robin Yates

Guests

Lee-Ann Penaluna, Coordinator - Academic Integrity Programs – present for Item 5
Roxanne Ross, Director - Student Success Centre – present for Item 5

Non-Voting Members

Susan Barker
Patti Dyjur
Brock Kahanyshyn
Natasha Kenny
Brenda McDermott
Jessica Shaw

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Staff

Jaclyn Carter

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the October 20, 2020 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Academic Co-Chair remarked that additional discussion conducted within the Zoom chat function can be beneficial to members, but reported that this discussion will not be incorporated into the minutes. The Academic Co-Chair encouraged members to speak during the meeting, and indicated that she will monitor the chat window to make sure that any important points are verbalized so that these can be included in the minutes.

The Co-Chair reported that Fabiola Aparicio-Ting, Cumming School of Medicine, has received the 2020 Killam Undergraduate Mentorship Award and Reed Ferber, Faculty of Kinesiology, has received the 2020 McCaig-Killam Teaching Award.

3. Approval of the September 15, 2020 Meeting 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 15, 2020 be approved.

Carried

Elena Rangelova abstained.

4. Teaching and Learning Awards and Recognition

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), and Natasha Kenny, Senior Director of the Taylor Institute (TI), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported on the External Teaching and Learning Awards Committee, including its membership, mandate, and activities, and indicated that information such as award success rates will be set out in a forthcoming annual report
- The Committee discussed the adjudication process for the University's Teaching Awards program, including that:
 - Positive changes include the updated rubrics for adjudication, to be more reflective of process, and the removal of the numerical scoring from categories, as these implied weighting
 - The teaching dossier, which is now part of the tenure and promotion process, can be adapted for the awards package
 - Nominating/applying for the Teaching Awards is time consuming and levels of support are different between units, and this impacts willingness to participate
 - The shift in deadline from January to February is helpful
 - Once COVID-19 restrictions are over, staff from the TI will be able to visit other campuses to offer information sessions

- The Committee was asked to consider possible ways to recognize individuals who have enhanced teaching and learning during the challenging time of COVID-19, and the Committee agreed that these individuals could be recognized as part of the 2021 Teaching Awards celebration

5. Student Success Centre: Supports for Students in Online Learning

Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), Roxanne Ross, and Lee-Ann Penaluna presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on supports for students during online learning, including workshops, 1:1 appointments, online learning modules, interactive resources, virtual study halls, and meet-and-greets. The presenters indicated that Student Success Centre staff can be invited to speak to a class about supports for students, and that presentations will be done at orientation sessions.
- The presenters reported that common concerns expressed by students include: having difficulty accessing learning materials and resources, managing their time effectively and staying motivated, knowing whether and how they are permitted to interact with other students and what they can use during an exam, and developing the skills to excel in online assessments
- The presenters noted that online invigilation platforms are being explored, and that instructors are asked to consider their assessment practices
- Discussion included:
 - The virtual study hall model, and that this appears to benefit students
 - That it can be difficult to connect students if they are unsure or resistant to online interaction
 - That the Committee's members can help to make students aware of the supports offered by the Student Success Centre

6. Role of TLC in Feedback on Curriculum Reviews

The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reminded the Committee that, two years ago, the University's Curriculum Review Handbook was revised and the Committee is now the body designated to discuss the units' curriculum review reports
- The Committee was advised that the curriculum review report for the Faculty of Kinesiology will be discussed at its November meeting. The Co-Chair reviewed the Committee's approach to this, emphasising that the purpose is to focus on the action plan and to support and learn from each other.

7. USRI Working Group Update

Leslie Reid presented this item.

The presenter reported on the recent work of the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) Working Group, including that surveys for students and staff will soon be launched and then, after analysis of these, a report with recommendations will be brought through the governance system as appropriate.

8. Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning Report

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

Highlights:

- The 2021 Teaching and Learning Grants and Teaching Scholars programs launched on October 5, and the programs have been aligned with a common submission deadline of Jan 28, 2021
- The TI has received \$1 million from the Flanagan Foundation towards addressing the immediate challenges of pivoting to online learning during COVID-19, and to catalyze ongoing innovation in online and blended teaching and learning
- Gabrielle Lindstrom has been appointed as the TI's Educational Development Consultant (Indigenous Ways of Knowing), starting January 1, 2021

9. Students' Union Report

Semhar Abraha, Students' Union (SU) representative to the Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The SU is collecting concerns from students during this time of predominantly online teaching, and determining what advocacy is necessary as teaching and learning will continue to be delivered predominantly online in the Winter term
- The deadline for nominations for the SU Teaching Awards is Friday, October 23

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the information that the SU is gathering on students' online learning experiences can be shared with the Committee.

10. Graduate Students' Association Report

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

Highlights:

- A new GSA teaching awards webpage is being developed
- Information is being collected on Teaching Assistants' experiences during COVID-19, such as students not attending labs, issues with hardware, and balancing in-person and online instruction
- An Academic Horror Stories event will be held on October 29 in the spirit of Halloween, and presents an opportunity for graduate students to hear from professors and others about their experiences
- An award for graduate students with disabilities is in development, and an application for funding for this has been submitted

11. Approved 2020-2021 TLC Work Plan

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

12. COVID-19 Updates in Teaching and Learning and Updates from TLC Members

The Co-Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Co-Chair noted that this will be a standing item for the foreseeable future, and an opportunity for members to share experiences relating to teaching and learning during COVID-19
- The Committee discussed matters including:
 - Instructors should not be requiring that students provide medical notes or statutory declarations during this term
 - The volume of information for people to access and digest
 - The new regulation requiring a 24-hour window for timed assessments and reactions to this
 - Signs that some students and instructors are feeling overwhelmed and isolated

13. Communication Points

The Committee reviewed the information discussed during the meeting that should be shared with their units, and agreed that it is not necessary for the Academic Co-Chair to continue the practice of writing a message capturing this.

14. Other Business

There was no other business

15. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Teaching and Learning Committee adjourn the October 20, 2020 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.