



General Faculties Council
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 63

December 15, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Amy Warren, Academic Co-Chair
Semhar Abraha – arrived during Item 4
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting
Jessica Ayala – arrived during Item 2
Wendy Benoit
Barbara Brown
Tracey Clancy
Diane Gereluk
Dawn Johnston
Fabian Neuhaus – left during Item 4
Alex Paquette – left after Item 8
David Paskevich
Elena Rangelova

Non-Voting Members

Susan Barker – arrived during Item 2, left after Item 5
Markus Dann – left after Item 5
Patti Dyjur
Natasha Kenny
Brenda McDermott

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Staff

Jaclyn Carter

Regrets

Brock Kahanyshyn
Diane Lorenzetti
Nickie Nikolaou
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Jessica Shaw
Leighton Wilks

Guests

Amy Burns, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Program in Education, Werklund School of Education – present for Item 4
Renata Gordon, Student Conduct Office – present for Item 5
Keira Gunn, Associate Vice-President (Labour), Graduate Students' Association – present for Item 7
Jennifer Quin, Senior Director - Student Services – present for Item 5

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the December 15, 2020 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:

- Members were thanked for their efforts during this difficult term
- The COVID-19 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Survey, which will gather information on how COVID-19 has impacted members of the University community differently, has been launched and can be accessed here: <https://ucalgary.ca/equity-diversity-inclusion/covid-19-edi-survey>

The Academic Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Some Faculties are currently doing curriculum reviews and the public reports will come to the Committee for discussion in due course
- Members are encouraged to take a break during the University's holiday closure

3. Approval of the November 17, 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 November 17, 2020 be approved.

Carried

4. Curriculum Review – Werklund School of Education

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dianne Gereluk, Dean, Werklund School of Education (WSE), Barbara Brown, WSE Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning), and Amy Burns presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the curriculum review report from the Werklund School of Education (WSE), noting that this is the second curriculum review for the WSE and discussing the process that was followed, the action items that have been identified, and points of pride for the Faculty
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The Undergraduate Programs in Education Community Council will meet several times each year to discuss issues for teachers, such as the impacts of COVID-19 in schools
 - The second curriculum review was easier for the Faculty, in part because it was better understood how the report would be used
- Discussion included:
 - That a curriculum review steering committee plays an important role in a review
 - That a curriculum review report is valuable for many purposes, including for the onboarding of new Associate Deans

5. Promoting and Supporting Positive Online Learning Environments

Jennifer Quin and Renata Gordon presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on how the Student Conduct Office (SCO) supports appropriate activity in online environments, including by offering a variety of training workshops, coaching sessions, web resources, and a user-friendly form for the reporting of inappropriate behaviour. The presenters announced that a program to acknowledge active bystanders has been launched.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The SCO has modified some workshops to provide a focus on the challenging online environment at this time, and has received positive feedback on this
 - Following a report of a violation under the Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy, action may include informal conversations and/or a formal hearing

6. Pressing Issues in Teaching and Learning

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

Highlights:

- The co-chairs indicated that the purpose of this item is to provide an open opportunity for the Committee to raise and discuss current pressing issues in teaching and learning
- Discussion included:
 - That consistent and detailed messaging to instructors and students relating to the exam regulations is needed. For example, there is lack of clarity about when students can connect to a scheduled exam.
 - Student assessment practices, in general, need to be considered

7. Survey of Graduate Students on Online and On-Campus Issues that TAs are Experiencing

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Alex Paquette, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Vice-President (Academic), and Keira Gunn presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on a recent survey conducted by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) about online and on-campus issues that Teaching Assistants (TAs) are experiencing at this time, and specifically reported on the demographics of who filled out the survey, concerns raised by the students (including technical issues, mental health struggles, workload, and difficulties in organizing their time and working from home), and suggestions for what the GSA and University can do to address these concerns. The presenters emphasised that 51 of the 86 respondents indicated that they are working more hours than agreed to in their contract.
- Discussion included:
 - That the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (TI) offers some training that might be valuable to graduate students, and that the availability of this should be promoted

- That some TAs have academic career aspirations and are eager to learn by working with instructors
- There used to be a rule that a TA could only mark up to 50% of a course's assessments, but this rule appears to no longer exist. The hours worked and burden of responsibility upon TAs is a concern, and the 50% rule should be reconsidered.
- Models that more thoughtfully balance a TA's available hours and duties should be followed when assigning responsibilities

8. Graduate Students' Association Report

Alex Paquette, GSA representative on the Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The survey of TAs will be done again in the Winter term
- The recipients of the GSA's 2021 Teaching Awards will be announced in February and the Committee was encouraged to nominate for the TAs award
- The 2021 Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium will be held online from February 25-26, and registration will open soon. There will be more prizes to award this year because the conference expenses will be lower.

9. Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Natasha Kenny, Senior Director of the TI, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The application deadline for the Teaching and Learning Grants and Scholars competitions is January 28, 2021, and the nomination deadline for the University of Calgary Teaching Awards competition is February 11, 2021
- Applications to the 2021 Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) are now being accepted
- A new consolidated Orbis platform for Experiential Learning and student success has launched. The platform will facilitate services such as job postings, Experiential Learning program management, student success workshop registration, and the booking of advising appointments, and more information will be communicated soon.

10. Students' Union Report

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

Highlights:

- An application to the 2021 Quality Money grants program has been submitted, seeking funding for an Open Educational Resources initiative

- Students are expressing a number of concerns relating to the quality of learning and supports for students during COVID-19, and the SU is encouraging students to complete surveys such as the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and COVID-19 EDI Survey to communicate their feedback

11. USRI Working Group update

Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), reported that the USRI Working Group is currently analysing the information gathered from its focus group consultations, and a plan for broader consultation, including a survey, is being developed. It was noted that response rates to the 2020 USRI are low.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment

The December 15, 2020 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Susan Belcher
Meeting Secretary