



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

Meeting 64  
January 19, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

***Voting Members***

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair  
Amy Warren, Academic Co-Chair – arrived during Item 4  
Semhar Abraha  
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting  
Wendy Benoit  
Barbara Brown  
Tracey Clancy  
Diane Gereluk – arrived during Item 4, left after Item 7  
Fabian Neuhaus – arrived during Item 4, left after Item 6  
Nickie Nikolaou  
Alex Paquette  
David Paskevich

***Regrets***

Jessica Ayala  
Markus Dann  
Dawn Johnston  
Diane Lorenzetti  
Elena Rangelova  
Leighton Wilks

***Guests***

Robin Arseneault, Teaching and Learning Projects Coordinator, Taylor Institute – present for Item 5  
Michael Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement) – present for Item 4  
Jackie Lambert, Institutional Analyst, Office of Institutional Analysis – present for Item 5  
Mohana Mukherjee, Research Assistant for NSSE Reporting – present for Item 5

***Non-Voting Members***

Susan Barker – left after Item 5  
Patti Dyjur  
Brock Kahanyshyn – arrived during Item 4  
Natasha Kenny  
Brenda McDermott  
Mary-Jo Romaniuk  
Jessica Shaw – left after Item 5

***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 January 19, 2021 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

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

The Co-Chair thanked the Committee's members for their participation as the University begins another term.

## **3. Approval of the December 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 December 15, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

## **4. Recommendation of the New 'Indigenous Ways of Knowing' University of Calgary Teaching Award**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Natasha Kenny, Senior Director of the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (TI), and Michael Hart presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to add a new 'Indigenous Ways of Knowing' award to the University of Calgary Teaching Award program. The proponents noted that the new award will be added to the next Teaching Award cycle because the current cycle is already well underway, that individuals or teams may be nominated for the award, that elders will be involved in the recognition process, that there may be multiple recipients of the award in a particular year, and that recipients and nominees will all be honoured each year.
- In response to a question, it was reported that, if an individual has been the recipient of a University of Calgary Teaching Award, they are still eligible to be nominated for a different University of Calgary Teaching Award.
- The Committee suggested that the document be revised to make clear that:
  - The award is to recognize work in academic programs and not non-academic programs
  - Indigenous scholars and allies are all eligible to be nominated
- The Committee expressed appreciation that the nomination process for the 'Indigenous Ways of Knowing' award provides for a video or audio recorded submission in place of a nomination letter

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Teaching and Learning Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the addition of a new award entitled 'Indigenous Ways of Knowing' to the University of Calgary Teaching Awards Program, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, with the requested amendments.

**Carried**

## **5. 2020 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Institutional Results**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), Jackie Lambert, Robin Arseneault and Mohana Mukherjee presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The presenters reminded the Committee of the history of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) at the University and that first-year and senior undergraduate students are surveyed, and then gave a presentation highlighting the University's 2020 NSSE results. The presenters reported that a NSSE support team will again be established, and that next steps include a campus community retreat to examine the 2020 NSSE results, the distribution of Faculty NSSE reports, and applying the learnings from the survey results to institutional work.
- In response to a question, it was reported that approximately 45% of eligible students completed the survey
- Discussion included:
  - That the University scores below other Canadian institutions in the 'supportive environment' indicator, and that this is a challenging indicator to consider as it is defined to include a variety of components such as learning supports, wellness supports, work-life balance, and community connections. It was noted that students' awareness of support services and their perception of what 'supportive environment' means could influence the answers in this area.
  - That it is most interesting to compare the University to other research-intensive universities and other commuter universities (the U15 and Top5 comparisons) rather than looking at the 'Canadian' comparison, which compares the University to all post-secondary institutions in Canada
  - That the NSSE is administered every three years, and so a student who did the survey in their first year would not do the survey again
  - Whether indicators for which senior undergraduates are showing lower satisfaction (collaborative learning, discussions with diverse others, student-faculty interaction, and supportive environment) impact a student's decision whether to pursue a graduate degree
  - That the presentation shows improved results across many indicators, which is an indication that the University's efforts after the 2017 NSSE, and specifically the NSSE action plans, were impactful
  - How the presentation's comparison labels 'above', 'similar' and 'below' are determined

## **6. COVID Updates (Round Table Discussion)**

The Committee was given an opportunity to talk about COVID-19 impacts on teaching and learning and other matters of significance at this time, and discussion included that:

- There is concern about isolation and mental health issues during remote learning and working but that some survey responses have indicated that there are positives to being at home, such as no commuting and the ability to balance work-life duties
- A convocation ceremony is a special part of the student experience

- The search process for a new Registrar will begin soon, and that an Interim Registrar will be appointed
- The clearly communicated decision that remote working will continue until June welcomed
- The University needs clearer guidelines for matters such as asynchronous learning and online courses
- There is hope that there will be some return to normalcy after the summer

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

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

Highlights:

- The University of Calgary Teaching Awards nomination deadline has been shifted to March 25 and the Teaching and Learning Grants and Scholars deadline is January 31. Persons who have agreed to serve as adjudicators are thanked.
- The 2021 Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) Awards is open for application, with a student deadline of February 5 and a supervisor deadline of February 12
- Dr. John Willison, University of Adelaide, will give a keynote address and workshop on Experiential Learning on February 18
- Conversations relating to the assessment of teaching and learning are ongoing, and a professional development module on preparing a teaching dossier has just been launched

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

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

Highlights:

- The GSA has met with the TI about increasing graduate student awareness of training sessions, and the Committee is asked to support their Teaching Assistants in attending these
- The GSA Teaching Awards program is now open to nominations and the Committee is encouraged to nominate Teaching Assistants
- The Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium currently has 70 presenters registered, and the event is in need of judges

## **9. Students' Union Report**

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

Highlights:

- The Winter 2021 term has started smoothly

- Some students in the Faculty of Science have expressed concern about the use of a new exam platform which has added costs to students. The Co-Chair indicated that she would follow up with the SU in order to investigate this matter.

#### **10. USRI Working Group update**

Leslie Reid reported that the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) Working Group has been analysing information gathered by consultation, an environmental scan, and research, and is writing its report which will include recommendations to revise the University's USRI system. It is expected that the Working Group's report will be ready for discussion by the Committee and other bodies in February and March.

#### **11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **12. Adjournment**

The January 19, 2021 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
Meeting Secretary