



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

Meeting 65  
March 16, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

***Voting Members***

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair  
Amy Warren, Academic Co-Chair  
Semhar Abraha  
Barbara Brown  
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting  
Jessica Ayala  
Wendy Benoit  
Tracey Clancy  
Diane Gereluk  
Dawn Johnston  
Fabian Neuhaus  
Nickie Nikolaou  
Alex Paquette  
David Paskevich  
Elena Rangelova  
Leighton Wilks

***Non-Voting Members***

Susan Barker  
Patti Dyjur  
Natasha Kenny  
Brenda McDermott  
Robin Yates

***Secretary and Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Staff***

Tasha Hodzic

***Regrets***

Brock Kahanyshyn  
Diane Lorenzetti  
Mary-Jo Romaniuk  
Jessica Shaw

***Guests***

Alysia Wright, Educational Development Consultant and Academic Lead, Online and Blended Learning,  
Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning – present for Item 4

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The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the March 16, 2021 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:

- At this time of the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 impacts, members of the Committee were acknowledged for their efforts to sustain University operations in such a positive way
- The annual Campus Mental Health Strategy update and associated events will be held next week

The Academic Co-Chair remarked that there is poignancy at this time of the COVID-19 anniversary but hope for a new normal now that vaccinations are underway. The Co-Chair encouraged members to reflect upon the last year.

## **3. Approval of the January 19, 2021 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 January 19, 2021 be approved.

**Carried**

## **4. Resources to Support Setting Up Positive Online Learning Environments**

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

Highlights:

- The presenters gave a presentation on the tools, strategies and resources that have been developed in response to the shift to online teaching and learning during COVID-19, and noted that challenges in the online environment include violations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and other inappropriate online behaviour, stress and frustrations with online teaching and learning, and access to and use of technology. The presenters reported that recently-developed resources for academic staff and Graduate Teaching Assistants are available on the Student Conduct and Taylor Institute (TI) websites, and include the resources Student Conduct in the Virtual Classroom, Using Mental Health and Wellness as a Framework for Teaching and Learning, Strategies for Creating Inclusive and Accessible Learning Experiences, How to Handle Challenges in the Zoom Classroom, and Setting Up Positive Learning Environments, and that a streamlined process for reporting online behaviour of concern has been developed.
- The Committee was specifically asked to discuss the new Strategy 9 from the TI's resource Strategies for Creating Inclusive and Accessible Learning Experiences: Addressing Issues in Online Environments, and discussion included that:
  - Creating a website that provides links to information on other existing websites makes the information more accessible and is helpful
  - Much of the information that has been developed to support those in the online environment can also be applied to the in-person environment

- Some of the bullet points in the proposed Strategy 9 are somewhat ambiguous and repetitive, and the text could be refined
- Some instructors need assistance in establishing the online environment as well as responding to things that happen within the environment
- Bystander intervention training is needed for instructors and students
- It is important for students to understand what is, and what isn't, considered to be misconduct. That a student being off-camera is not misconduct was referenced as an example of a situation that can be misconstrued.
- The TI's resource, Strategies for Creating Inclusive and Accessible Learning Experiences, should be shared with all instructors
- The Committee suggested that the proponents consider the development of a Strategy 10 specific to Graduate Teaching Assistants

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

The Academic Co-Chair presented this item.

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:

- The tone of many conversations has shifted, and now consideration is being given to what online components should be kept after COVID-19, such as blended instruction, online office hours, and remote student advising
- Zoom has overall been successful, and it is hoped that the University's license will be continued so that there is the option for things such a hybrid teaching model and the continuing of remote attendance by guest speakers
- There is significant fatigue within the University community, and a pause is needed so that clear thinking about what has been learned during COVID-19 can be applied to the navigation back to in-person
- The recording of lectures is appreciated by students, and that consideration is need as to if/how this might be continued in the future. It was noted that there have been some issues with recording, such as poor filming/editing and erroneous transcription.
- The University will announce in April how the Fall 2021 semester will be delivered

## **6. 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 deadline to nominate for the University of Calgary Teaching Awards is March 25
- Early bird registration for the Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching closes on March 18. The theme for the 2021 conference is Mentorship in Higher Education.

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

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

Highlights:

- The Overcoming Adversity Graduate Scholarship, a new GSA award for graduate students with disabilities, has been established and is now posted on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and GSA websites
- A compilation of resources for Graduate Teaching Assistants is now available on the GSA website, and the page will be updated as more information is identified
- The GSA is developing a student/supervisor conflict pamphlet in order to provide information to students who may be experiencing issues
- The virtual Peer Beyond Graduate Research Conference was held February 24-26. There were 95 presenters and 196 attendees, and \$6,000 in prizes were awarded.

## **8. Students' Union Report**

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

Highlights:

- The SU Teaching Excellence Award program received a record number of nominations this year
- The SU has approved a variety of Quality Money projects, and an announcement of the funded projects will be made later this month

## **9. GFC and GFC Standing Committees Meeting Schedules for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023**

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

## **10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **11. Adjournment**

The March 16, 2021 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.