



General Faculties Council
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 68
September 21, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Amy Warren, Academic Co-Chair
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting
Wendy Benoit
William Bridel
Barbara Brown
Tracey Clancy
Heather Ganshorn
Yani Jazayeri
Fabian Neuhaus
Evaristus Oshionebo
Alex Paquette
Renzo Pereyra
Melanee Thomas
Jason Wiens
Leighton Wilks

Non-Voting Members

Susan Barker
Nigel Caulkett
Natasha Kenny
Barb McCutcheon
Brenda McDermott
D'Arcy Norman

Secretary and Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Staff

Tasha Hodzic

Regrets

Michelle Drefs
Diane Gereluk
Hieu Ngo
Trevor Poffenroth
Mary-Jo Romaniuk

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 September 21, 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:

- Members were welcomed to this academic year's first meeting, and a round of introductions was conducted
- The purpose of the Committee and role of the members were reviewed
- Members were thanked for all their efforts to support teaching and learning during this difficult time

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

- New and returning members were welcomed, and hope for a smoother teaching and learning year this year was expressed
- The diversity of the voices on this Committee is valued, and members are encouraged to share their opinions, in agreement or dissent, freely

3. COVID-19 Updates (Round Table)

The Academic Co-Chair presented this item.

Following a Jamboard sharing session, the Committee discussed that:

- Some changes triggered by the COVID-19 shut-down have been positive and could be maintained, such as remote student advising and instructor office hours
- The resources and programming offered by the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (TI) are valuable
- Student, instructor, and staff anxiety is high during this time, but this is difficult to assess and address
- Preparation time is needed by teaching assistants
- Technology is a tool, but not a simple solution to the current challengers
- Some students do not function well in an online learning environment, and this must be considered if online and blended learning is to continue
- All institutions are experiencing similar issues at this time, and institutional responses include building high flex classrooms, putting resources into hiring additional teaching assistants

The Committee also considered its functioning, and discussed that:

- The thoughtful, collaborative and respectful conversations at the Committee's meetings about topics relating to teaching and learning are appreciated
- Members can learn from each other's successes and challenges
- The diversity of the Committee's membership, including the students and the new equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization-oriented seats, is valued

The Academic Co-Chair reported that she and the Co-Chair will further digest the Jamboard posts, and will communicate with senior administrators as appropriate.

4. USRI Working Group Update

The Co-Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that:
 - The Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) Working Group was struck by the Committee in November 2018. The USRI Working Group has conducted broad campus consultation, considered current research, and conducted an environmental scan of Canadian universities relating to course evaluation, and its recommendation report is now being written. The USRI Working Group's recommendation report will come to the Committee first for discussion, likely at a special meeting to be held in the first half of October, and then it is expected that the final report and recommendations will be presented to the General Faculties Council in early 2022.
 - The USRI Working Group is recommending a system overhaul including new questions, context specific questions, and bias training
- Discussion included that known issues with the current USRI include the impacts of bias, and that there are equity, diversity and inclusion and Indigenous concerns

5. 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 2022 Teaching and Learning Grants and Teaching Scholars competitions are now open. The TI and Students' Union (SU) have partnered to create an additional funding stream for the development of Open Educational Resources (OER).
- The TI has a flexible Blended and Online Workshop Series that supports instructors involved in blended and online learning
- In September 2021 the TI launched a new badge for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The program is oversubscribed, and the TI is using a waitlist system.
- The Experiential Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) will help advance the implementation of the University's Experiential Learning Plan 2020-25
- All the classrooms in the TI are Zoom enabled, and graduate students are on site to help instructors. The scheduling team in the office of the Registrar is thanked for helping to book courses into the TI.

6. Graduate Students' Association Report

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

Highlights:

- The TI's Teaching Days were held August 25-26, 2021, and were an opportunity for Teaching Assistants to connect and receive support and mentoring as they prepared for the upcoming academic year
- The Road to Success event featured students talking about their struggles in order to help new Teaching Assistants
- A TI teaching dossier event will be held in November or January
- The GSA's Academic Horror Stories event will be held October 28, 2021 and is an opportunity for graduate students to learn from faculty about what to expect in their academic journey

7. Students' Union Report

Renzo Pereyra, SU representative on the Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- Applications are open for the Undergrad Research Symposium, which will be held November 22-26, 2021. Participants will submit video presentations of their research work.
- Nominations are open for the SU's Fall 2021 Teaching Excellence Awards. An OER award is now included in the program.

8. Other Business

The Co-Chair reported that the Operating Standard for Media Recording of Students in Learning Spaces has been approved by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), the language in the University Calendar regarding recording by students has been updated, and a website with information about appropriate recording practices has been developed (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/teaching-learning/recordings-learning-environments>).

9. Adjournment**Moved/Seconded**

That the Teaching and Learning Committee adjourn the September 21, 2021 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Elizabeth Sjogren
Meeting Secretary