



General Faculties Council
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

September 20, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

AD167 Boardroom

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Barbara Brown, Academic Co-Chair
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting
Rebecca Archer* – left after Item 4
Wendy Benoit
Tracey Clancy
Dianne Gereluk – arrived during Item 3
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette
Dawn Johnston – arrived during Item 3
Fabian Neuhaus
Hieu Ngo
James Steele

Regrets

William Bridel
Michelle Drefs
Heather Ganshorn
Yani Jazayeri
Barb McCutcheon
Brenda McDermott
Jennifer Markides
D'Arcy Norman
Evaristus Oshionebo
Trevor Poffenroth
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Leighton Wilks

Guests

Robin Arseneault, Teaching and Learning Project Coordinator, Taylor Institute

* = attended by Zoom

Non-Voting Members

Natasha Kenny – arrived during Item 3
Verity Turpin*
Justine Wheeler

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren*

Staff

Cherie Tutt

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

The Co-Chair presented a Land Acknowledgement.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the September 20, 2022 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 first in-person Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) meeting since the Covid-19 pandemic began
- Important business is being tracked for the committee this year, likely including discussions of curriculum review reports and an item relating to learning spaces

The Academic Co-Chair thanked the members for their work during the last couple of years, and especially for the incredible adjustments made during this period.

3. Committee Orientation

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- Rebecca Archer, Dawn Johnston, and Verity Turpin were welcomed on this occasion of their first meeting
- The TLC was provided time to discuss the Center for Courage and Renewal's poster 'Courage and Renewal Touchstones', which sets out concepts and practices used in the Circle of Trust model of working with others
- The members then shared and discussed the touchstones that resonated most for them:
 - Be present as fully as possible – *Be here with your doubts, fears and failings as well as your convictions, joys and successes, your listening as well as your speaking.*
 - Give and receive welcome – *People learn best in hospitable spaces. In this circle we support each other's learning by giving and receiving hospitality.*
 - No fixing, saving, advising or correcting – *This is one of the hardest guidelines for those of us who like to "help". But it is vital to welcoming the soul, to making space for the inner teacher.*
 - Trust and learn from silence – *Silence is a gift in our noisy world, and a way of knowing in itself. Treat silences as a member of the group. After someone has spoken, take time to reflect without immediately filling the space with words.*
 - When the going gets rough, turn to wonder – *Set aside judgment to listen to others - and to yourself - more deeply.*

4. Appointment of Academic Staff Members to the Course Feedback Implementation Working Group

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Academic Co-Chair and Robin Arseneault presented this item.

Highlights:

- The TLC was reminded of the history and the role/responsibilities of the Course Feedback Implementation Working Group (CFIWG), and the presenters reviewed the criteria for the four academic staff members to be appointed to the CFIWG by the TLC. The TLC was reminded that a call-for-names seeking persons interested in serving on the CFIWG was issued in June 2022, and that, in advance of this meeting, the TLC was asked to vote for their preferred candidates.
- Discussion included:
 - The results of the pre-meeting voting for preferred candidates for appointment, and that there are five candidates who initially stand out
 - That it would be good to have a mix of senior and emerging leaders on the CFIWG.
 - That not all Faculties are represented in the offers to serve, but that this is not a concern especially because not all Faculties use the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) instrument at this time
 - That the CFIWG will be able to consult widely and invite guests to its meetings in order to engage in thorough discussions relating to the USRI, including discipline-specific discussions
 - Whether the top four candidates from the pre-meeting voting should be asked if they are still willing to serve, or if the TLC should take a different approach to achieve greater diversity. It was observed that the CFIWG Terms of Reference does allow that “Up to two additional academic staff appointments by the TLC can be made to help ensure the Working Group composition reflects the University’s commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion”.
 - The purposes for the USRI and current concerns relating to it
 - That, for the next time the TLC does this appointment work, the call-for-names should ask persons to speak to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility in their bios, as well as their connection to the four academic staff member criteria in the CFIWG Terms of Reference, so that the TLC can make more informed analysis of candidates
- Following discussion, the TLC decided to charge the Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair with rank-ordering the candidates for appointment to the CFIWG, taking into consideration the TLC’s discussion and the four criteria set out in the CFIWG Terms of Reference, so that the University Secretariat can approach persons for appointment. The first four persons to agree to serve will be deemed to be appointed by the TLC. It was confirmed that Malinda Smith, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) would be consulted after the four TLC-appointed persons are known, and additional academic staff members may be appointed to the CFIWG after this.

Secretary’s note: Following the meeting, Wendy Benoit, Faculty of Science, Brianne Burkinshaw, Faculty of Science, Erin Spring, Werklund School of Education, and Nicole Wyatt, Faculty of Arts, agreed to serve and were deemed appointed by the TLC.

5. Teaching and Learning Updates and Emerging Issues (Roundtable)

The TLC was given an opportunity to discuss matters impacting teaching and learning at this time, and discussed:

- The technology issues in some classrooms, including insufficient availability of technology (e.g., lack of cameras to record live lectures, broken or missing equipment, wifi instability) and the reduction in technology support
- That accessibility is a concern, as there is limited capacity to support full hybrid course delivery
- That commitment to teaching and learning, and the nurturing of students' hopes and dreams, does not necessarily have to hurt an educator's achievements in research and scholarship, and it is vital not to convey to students that teaching is of secondary importance

6. Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning Report

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

Highlights:

- Members are encouraged to share with their colleagues the written report provided on the TLC D2L
- Three items from the report were highlighted:
 - The 2023 Teaching and Learning Grants program has launched, and applications are due January 16, 2023. The Taylor Institute provides consultation for the preparation of applications and is developing a software program to support the program.
 - The online learning module "Anti-Racism, EDI and Positionality in Teaching and Learning" launched in August 2022
 - The "Ready for Research Badge", the Taylor Institute's first workshop series targeted to undergraduate students, also launched in August 2022

7. Graduate Students' Association Report

James Steele, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) member of the TLC, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The 2023 Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium will be held in the Taylor Institute building, with the theme of 'reconnecting' and including teaching workshops
- The GSA is working with the Faculty of Graduate Studies to develop guidelines for best practices for graduate student supervisors
- A number of Teaching Assistants (TAs) have expressed to the GSA that they did not feel consulted by their Department regarding the return to in-person teaching. Some faculty members were given allowances to teach online, but some TAs feel that they were not heard in this way.

8. Students' Union Report

Shazia Jinnah Morsette, Students' Union (SU) member of the TLC, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Annual Operating Plan was approved by the Students Legislative Council last week, and includes the SU Executives' goals and accountabilities for this year
- A byelection will soon be held to fill vacant SU positions
- Applications for the Undergraduate Research Symposium close next week, and TLC members are asked to encourage their students to participate. The Symposium will be held November 21-24, 2022.
- The SU is engaged in an Open Educational Resources (OER) campaign, with tables to be set up next week to increase students' awareness and continuing communications with the provincial government about this matter. Funds from SU Quality Money and Taylor Institute grants are being used to grow OER at the University.
- Instructors are asked to be cognizant of students' capacity at this time, as it is an adjustment to be in-person for a full load of classes and to be back in-person in general. Blended learning can relieve some pressure and also increase accessibility.

In response to a question, it was stated that it is valuable to know that students from the Werklund School of Education cannot attend the Undergraduate Research Symposium as scheduled. It was noted that virtual participation is an option this year, and that participant statistics will be considered when the next symposium is planned.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

<p>Moved/Seconded</p>

<p>That the Teaching and Learning Committee adjourn the September 20, 2022 meeting.</p>

<p>Carried</p>

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.