



General Faculties Council
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

October 18, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Barbara Brown, Academic Co-Chair
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting
Rebecca Archer – left after Item 6
Wendy Benoit
William Bridel
Tracey Clancy
Heather Ganshorn
Dianne Gereluk – arrived during Item 4
Yani Jazayeri
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette
Dawn Johnston
Fabian Neuhaus
Hieu Ngo – arrived during Item 4
Evaristus Oshionebo – left after Item 5

Non-Voting Members

Natasha Kenny
Brenda McDermott
D’Arcy Norman
Trevor Poffenroth
Justine Wheeler

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Michelle Drefs
Jennifer Markides
Barb McCutcheon
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
James Steele
Verity Turpin
Leighton Wilks

Guests

Kayla Dias, Doctoral Student, Department of Biological Sciences – present for Item 5
Kyla Flanagan, Academic Lead - College for Discovery, Creativity and Innovation – present for Item 4
Corey Flynn, Associate Professor (Teaching), Department of Biological Sciences – present for Item 5
Derritt Mason, Associate Professor, Department of English – present for Item 5
Alysia Wright, Educational Development Consultant, Taylor Institute – present for Item 5

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m., confirmed quorum, and presented a Territorial Acknowledgement.

1. Approval of the Agenda**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the October 18, 2022 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair each welcomed the members to the meeting, and the Co-Chair observed that the agenda includes a number of interesting items.

3. Approval of the September 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on September 20, 2022 be approved.

Carried

4. Undergraduate Research Experiences and Recommended Changes to the Program for Undergraduate Research Experiences (PURE)

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Kyla Flanagan, Academic Lead of the CDCI, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter spoke about the College for Discovery, Creativity and Innovation (CDCI), providing information about its existing three signature programs (the Research on Global Challenges course, the course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences program, and the Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) awards program) and the Ready for Research badge program that will launch this Fall
- The presenter reported that changes to the PURE awards program are being considered, including opening the application process to all students in good academic standing instead of the grade point average (GPA) threshold of 3.2 that is currently required, expanding the program to include part-time students rather than only full-time students, and modifying the adjudication processes in consideration of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)
- Discussion included:
 - Other institutions have removed the GPA threshold for undergraduate research awards programs, and this has worked well
 - There is not necessarily a correlation between high GPA and success in all learning

- environments. When working closely with a research supervisor, a student can thrive regardless of their GPA.
- Removing barriers to research opportunities will have positive impacts on the University's learning ecosystem
 - The CDCI's commitment to monitoring equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) in the PURE awards program is applauded. EDIA in the application process is critical, but also necessary in the adjudication and mentoring stages.
 - As the PURE awards program grows, resources requirements will need to be reviewed
 - The PURE awards program should train supervisors to support a broad range of students, including neurodiverse students
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Consideration is being given to renaming the PURE awards program
 - The PURE awards platform will be improved
 - The CDCI is thinking carefully about its priorities relating to the PURE awards program, including growing participation from persons in the Arts disciplines
 - A student's GPA is not considered when evaluating a PURE proposal; GPA is currently a threshold to determine eligibility to apply to the program. Adjudicators have a detailed rubric to guide their work.
 - The CDCI offers supports to students involved in the PURE awards program, including summer workshops
 - The Committee expressed overall support for the PURE awards program and the changes presented

5. Flanagan Foundation Initiative Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Alysia Wright, Kayla Dias, Derritt Mason (educational leader in residence) and Corey Flynn (educational leader in residence) presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the Flanagan Foundation Initiative, which was created from a \$1 million donation to the University and aims to support instructors in amplifying their online and blended modality teaching. The presenters reported that the initiative has five priorities (to build expertise, to strengthen mentorship and leadership, to strengthen resources, to contribute to research, and to inform strategy and policy) and will grow new resources (pedagogy, course design tools, learning modules, and leadership through an online community of practice). Specifically, the presenters noted that the initiative has involved gathering lessons learned from teaching during the pandemic, and contemplation about how these lessons can be integrated into the University's culture of teaching and learning.
- Discussion included:
 - There was a shift in values and expectations during the pandemic, and it can be difficult for instructors to balance practices (e.g. the ungrading assessment model) within the constraints of traditional and rigid University procedures (e.g. Calendar regulation timelines)

- Documenting pandemic teaching and learning practices, through means such as audits, podcast discussions and published works, is important so that positive changes can be continued going forward
- The University is shifting back to in-person operations, but the current environment is complicated and instructors are dealing with matters such as desires for different modes of delivery (in-person, online, and hybrid) and supporting students who are missing content and/or assessment when sick
- The course outline is critical for establishing how a course is expected to run

6. Update on Learning Technologies and Technology Support in Teaching and Learning

Trevor Poffenroth, Chief Information Officer, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter described:
 - The Information Technologies (IT) 2020-2023 Strategic Goals, which are to enable global engagement/collaboration, to provide current and available technology, to expand predictive analytics capabilities, and to migrate commonly needed capabilities to centralized foundational platforms
 - Current IT challenges, including classroom technology, wifi outages, service stability, and timely classroom support
 - The core infrastructure upgrades and classroom enhancements underway to improve aspects of classroom technology, and the development of a classroom support program
 - Cybersecurity awareness initiatives
 - The ability for someone to change their preferred name in the University's systems
- The presenter reported that IT's top five initiatives for 2023-2024 will be: core infrastructure upgrades, classroom enhancements, classroom support, wifi stability and enhancement, and cybersecurity
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Work is underway to immediately address the University's wifi challenges
 - Some systems have been changed to address the issues with someone changing their preferred name, and work continues to align the more complex systems
 - \$300,000 has been obtained for classroom enhancements on the main campus. Future funding will be spent wherever the need is most urgent, on any of the University's campuses.
- Discussion included:
 - Offering trainings to allow instructors to troubleshoot some of their classroom technology problems would be valuable
 - The use of technology in teaching is being encouraged and so infrastructure to allow this, such as stable wifi, is needed

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

The Co-Chairs provided an opportunity for members to discuss matters impacting teaching and learning at this time, and discussion included:

- That guidance is needed on what is expected of instructors if they become ill, such as having contingency plans and not having prolonged cancellation of classes, and, similarly, that guidance is needed on how to handle and support students who are ill
- It was suggested that people access the Taylor Institute's resources on teaching and learning continuity, such as 'Increasing Access During Times of Disruption'
- It was emphasised that the health and wellness of faculty and students is important, and that in some cases if a person is unable to attend in-person they may be unable to participate from home, and that expectations must be reasonable and consistent across the University

8. Course Feedback Implementation Working Group (CFIWG) Update

The Co-Chairs presented this item.

Highlights:

- It was reported that:
 - The four academic staff members who have agreed to serve as the Committee's appointees on the CFIWG are Wendy Benoit, Faculty of Science, Brianne Burkinshaw, Faculty of Science, Erin Spring, Werklund School of Education, and Nicole Wyatt, Faculty of Arts. It was observed that these members collectively meet the criteria set out in the CFIWG's Terms of Reference: experience in multi-section courses, labs, online teaching, and experiential learning.
 - The name of the academic staff member of the CFIWG appointed by the Office of Indigenous Engagement will be known soon
 - Malinda Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) will be asked to review the membership of the CFIWG and will advise on whether one or two additional academic staff members should be appointed by the Committee to ensure the working group's composition reflects the University's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion
 - The CFIWG will begin meeting once the working group is fully populated
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that all the persons who had offered to serve following the June 2022 call for interest will be notified of the outcome of this appointment work

9. 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 (TI), presented this item.

Highlights:

- This Fall term the TI is launching a new community of practice in equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) in teaching and learning

- The TI Indigenous Strategy Working Group will begin meeting later this month. The working group will provide guidance and recommendations on how to advance Indigenous Ways of Knowing in undergraduate research initiatives and the awards process, advising on an art installation in the TI, and growing the resources from the 2022 Moving Forward in a Good Way Conference.
- Draft applications to the Teaching and Learning Grants program are due on October 31, 2022 if applicants want feedback through an internal peer review. The deadline for final submissions is January 16, 2023.

10. Graduate Students' Association Report

There was no report.

11. Students' Union Report

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

Highlights:

- Academic Integrity Week is being held is this week, from October 17-21, 2022. Events are going well, and the panel discussion being held on Friday will be recorded and made available.
- Nominations for the Fall 2022 SU Teaching Excellence Awards close Friday, October 21
- Sixty participants in the 2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium have been chosen. Their presentations will be in a hybrid format, by video or in-person on November 24. Award winners will be announced at the November 24, 2022 event.
- The SU's byelection results were announced on October 14, 2022. Mateusz Salmassi is the new SU Vice-President (External), Muntaha Aamir is the new Board of Governors representative, and several Faculty representatives were elected. The resolution to have Health and Dental Plan fees increase with the Consumer Price Index, without requiring further referendums each year, passed. The SU's Vice-President (Operations and Finance) position remains vacant.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Teaching and Learning Committee adjourn the October 18, 2022 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.