

General Faculties Council  
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE  
Approved Minutes

Meeting #31, May 25, 2016, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

A167

***Voting Members***

Lynn Taylor, Co-Chair  
Ebba Kurz, Academic Co-Chair  
Abubaker Abdelhafiz – left during Item 6  
Jessica Ayala – arrived during Item 2  
Andrew Estefan  
Mike Foley  
Tina Gabriele  
Laura Koltutsky  
Alicia Lunz  
Vera Parlac  
Emma Read

***Non-Voting Members***

Susan Barker  
Nancy Chick  
David Hansen  
Tom Hickerson  
Natasha Kenny  
Charlene Magnes  
D'Arcy Norman

***Regrets***

Isabelle Barrette-Ng  
Jerome Beaudoin  
Kent Donlevy  
Mark Konnert  
Jennifer Lock  
Scott Radford  
Jackie Sieppert  
Alice Woolley

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher – left after Item 5

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the May 25, 2016 Teaching and Learning Committee be approved.

**Carried**

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

The Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Alicia Lunz, Students' Union (SU) Vice-President (Academic), and Abu Abdelhafiz, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Vice-President (Academic), were welcomed to their first Teaching and Learning Committee meeting
- The Committee's feedback on the proposal for the process to energize the *Eyes High* Strategic Direction was relayed to the President for consideration
- The University of Calgary Teaching Awards celebration was held on March 29, 2016
- The opening ceremony for the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (TI) was held on April 18, 2016. There is interest in the building, and tours will be conducted.
- The 2016 University of Calgary Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching was held May 10-11, 2016. Attendance was higher again this year, and attendees from 22 institutions participated in the conference.

The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

## 3. Approval of March 24, 2016 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 March 24, 2016 be approved.

**Carried**

## 4. Recommendation of the Revisions to the University of Calgary Teaching Awards Program

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Natasha Kenny, Director of the Educational Development Unit (EDU), and Lynn Taylor, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reminded the Committee that the purpose of the University's Teaching Awards Program is to recognize outstanding teaching contributions that strengthen the teaching environment at the University. Feedback on the program is collected each year, and four changes to the program are now recommended:
  - The addition of a new award relating to Continuing and Professional Education
  - The addition of two new awards relating to Work Integrated Education, one for teaching in a clinical setting and one for practicum and internship programs
  - The expansion of eligibility for the Award for Teaching in Virtual Environments and the Award for Integrating Experiential Learning to include sessional academic staff

- Revision of the general Award for Sessional Instructors to award up to three persons annually rather than two
- The Committee observed that it may be difficult for some community practitioners to be nominated for the new Work Integrated Education award, as: 1) practicum placements are normally on the scale of months, and therefore a potential awardee may not meet the “three or more years teaching experience in a workplace setting” requirement for the award; and 2) there may not be any Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) scores on record for the potential awardee. The proponents reported that the awards program administrators have the flexibility to adapt the award requirements, and that demonstration of sustained impact on students will be considered and that “summative student evaluations” can be substituted for USRI scores.
- In response to questions, the proponents reported that:
  - The University of Calgary Teaching Awards are meant to be competitive, high level awards, and so that is why only a few awards are made in each category per year
  - The quality of the teacher-student interactions is arguably more important than the specific number of students interacted with, and so the wording of the award descriptions will be reconsidered in order to reflect this
  - The description for the Continuing and Professional Education Award was carefully written in order not to limit eligibility to those persons with academic appointments. Nominees must have taught at least two intensive courses, however.
  - It is possible that, in the future, consideration could be given to expanding the Teaching Awards Program to include senior undergraduate students

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Teaching and Learning Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the amendments to the University of Calgary Teaching Awards Program, as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

**5. Annual Committee Performance Review and Review of the Teaching and Learning Committee Terms of Reference**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Ebba Kurz, Academic Co-Chair, presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair thanked the members of the Committee for responding to the committee performance survey, and for providing candid and thoughtful feedback. They indicated that they will consider the comments during the next meeting year. The Academic Co-Chair invited additional feedback from members at any time.
- The Co-Chair observed that some of the items on the Committee’s 2015-2016 work plan had not been seen, but that it is expected that these will come to the Committee in the Fall
- In response to a question from the Co-Chair, the Committee made no suggestions for revision to the Committee’s Terms of Reference

## **6. Update on the College of Discovery, Creativity and Innovation First-Year Courses**

Lynn Taylor, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter observed that the TI is now an established hub for many of the University's teaching and learning initiatives, and reported that the time has come to implement the TI's College of Discovery, Creativity, and Innovation (CDCI). The presenter reported that the search for a Director of the CDCI is underway.
- The CDCI will provide institutional level enquiry-based learning opportunities and co-curricular activities for students, but will also provide opportunities for instructors to learn about course design
- A three-year pilot of two Global Challenges courses will begin in January 2017. The theme of the courses will be determined administratively, and the courses will be offered through the Faculty of Arts. The courses will be split into 4-6 sections of approximately 30 students, with each section having an instructor who will serve as mentor to the students. The instructors will be working together so that the sections are delivering comparable experiences. It is envisaged that students will meet as a community from time to time, and will have several conference-like experiences over their four undergraduate years.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The Global Challenges courses are offered through the Faculty of Arts, but are open to all junior undergraduate students
  - In the future, courses will be added for senior undergraduate students
  - It is recognized that the CDCI courses will not be an option for students in restrictive programs, such as Engineering
  - Registration has been slow to date, but communication will continue and recruitment efforts will soon begin
  - Second-year students could be admitted to the courses with the approval of the Director, but the courses will not be available to third-year students
  - The Global Challenges courses are enquiry based learning courses, but learning will not necessarily take place *in* the community
  - The Global Challenges courses will utilize open educational resources
  - Librarians will create modules for the students, such as 'how to use data with academic integrity'

## **7. Report of the University Chair in Teaching and Learning**

Nancy Chick, University Chair in Teaching and Learning and Director of the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning, presented this item.

Highlights:

- All applications to the Teaching and Learning Grants program have been received, and the

adjudication committee will be making decisions next week

- The “PIE at the TI” welcome event was held in the TI on Friday, April 22. The event was described as an opportunity for members of the campus community to Play, Imagine and Experiment with the learning spaces in the new building, and approximately sixty people participated. Tours will be available, and feedback about the spaces is being gathered.
- Applications to use the TI’s learning spaces in the Summer and Fall terms are being reviewed. The meeting spaces will not be available for booking, and it will be important to communicate that the learning spaces are meant for enquiry-based learning and projects, and that the TI is not a traditional classroom building.
- A teaching assistant specializing in the scholarship of teaching and learning has been hired for the TI and he will work with people on their projects

## **8. Students’ Union Report**

Alicia Lunn, SU Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The new members of the SU Executive took office on May 2, 2016
- Representatives of the SU will be attending the Open Textbook Summit, which is part of the Festival of Learning being held in Burnaby, British Columbia from June 6-9, 2016
- The Undergraduate Research Symposium which will be held on December 1, 2016

## **9. Graduate Students’ Association Report**

Abu Abdelhafiz, GSA Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The new members of the GSA Executive have also taken office
- One of the GSA’s goals for 2016-2017 is to increase graduate student engagement with teaching initiatives, and so the GSA will be working closely with the TI

## **10. Learning Technologies Report/ Update on Implementation of Strategic Framework for Learning Technologies**

D’Arcy Norman, Manager of the Technology Integration Group (TIG), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Learning Technologies Coaches program has launched, and consists of twenty coaches based in almost all of the Faculties. Most of the coaches are graduate students, but some are senior undergraduates or post-doctoral scholars. The coaches serve to help instructors incorporate more digital technologies into their teaching, such as how to effectively use Desire2Learn, Adobe Connect, and audio and video tools. The TIG is gathering feedback on the

program, and will use this to expand and improve the program.

- The TI will continue to hire staff to assist instructors, including a coach with expertise in online collaboration and a research assistant who will study how to document pedagogy and activities in the classroom
- The TIG continues to work with staff in Information Technologies to resolve the issues with video hosting

#### **11. Educational Development Unit Report**

Natasha Kenny, Director of the EDU, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The 2016 University of Calgary Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching was hosted in the TI, and the theme of the conference was Exploring Creativity. The presentation of digital posters on touch screens was very successful, and this is expected to become a signature component of the conference.
- The University's Teaching Awards Program is intended to build a community of teaching award recipients to share their expertise within and across disciplines, and the Teaching Academy has now grown to forty-five members. The members of the Teaching Academy participate in initiatives such as Open Classroom Week, during which they open their classroom to observation by other instructors, and a peer mentorship program.
- Another National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) retreat was held in late April, during which the Director of the Office of Institutional Analysis gave a presentation on analysing the NSSE data, and participants continued to develop an action plan in response to the University's NSSE results
- The pilot University Teaching Scholars Program has launched, and funding recipients will work to enhance their educational leadership and strengthen their teaching practices

#### **12. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **13. Adjournment**

The May 25, 2016 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.
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The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.