

General Faculties Council
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 39
October 26, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Ebba Kurz, Academic Co-Chair
Jessica Ayala
Isabelle Barrette-Ng – left during Item 9
Leanne Dawson
Sarah Eaton – arrived during Item 3
Sandra Goldsworthy
Ken MacMillan – left during Item 5
Tina Miller
Leeanne Morrow
Nickie Nikolaou – arrived during Item 3, left during
Item 8
David Paskevich – arrived during Item 3
Scott Radford
Emma Read

Regrets

David Hansen
Ian Holloway
Linda Hunter
Vera Parlac
U.T. Sundararaj

Guest

Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
– present for Item 3

Non-Voting Members

Susan Barker – arrived during Item 3, left during
Item 8
Nancy Chick
Thomas Hickerson – arrived during Item 3
Sandra Hoenle
Natasha Kenny – present for Item 6 *
Charlene Mages
D’Arcy Norman

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Observer

Tanya Shawlinski, Executive Assistant to the
Interim Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)

* by telephone

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Co-Chair reported that the times on the agenda will not be followed exactly, and that Item 3 (Renewal of the Academic Plan) and Item 6 (University of Calgary Teaching Awards Updates) will be addressed as the presenters become available.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the October 26, 2017 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting be approved, with the reported amendments.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair remarked that the University's renewed Academic Plan will be brought to the Committee twice this term, and that she is looking forward to the discussions about this.

The Academic Co-Chair reported that the Indigenous Strategy and the Committee's 2017-2018 Work Plan were approved by the General Faculties Council (GFC) last week, and that the campus community will see the implementation of the Indigenous Strategy beginning in the coming months.

3. Renewal of the Academic Plan

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported on the process and overarching model for the Academic Plan, including the Academic Plan's three priorities: 1) Prioritizing People, 2) Connecting Communities, and 3) Driving Innovation. The Committee learned that the seven priorities in the 2011 Academic Plan map to the 2017 priorities.
- The proponent reported that the Academic Plan and the Research Plan are being renewed in tandem, and that they share the common priority of Driving Innovation. The Academic Plan and the Research Plan are integrated, and will share common introductory text, but they will also be standalone documents.
- The Committee discussed:
 - The importance of stressing the University's commitments to diversity and developing a learning culture
 - The need for strong supports and IT systems
- The Committee expressed strong support for the pedagogical innovation, interdisciplinarity, and valuing people sections of the document, and noted that there are many initiatives currently underway at the University in these areas
- The Committee suggested that the document could be strengthened by:
 - Referencing the involvement of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in pedagogical innovation
 - Providing broad examples of innovative programs and integrating research into the classroom
 - Incorporating the concept of social justice
 - Incorporating a focus on growth mind-set to help frame the section on learning culture

- Defining 'talent' in the document
- The Co-Chair reported that the Academic Plan will return to the Committee for further discussion at the next meeting

4. Approval of the September 21, 2017 Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on September 21, 2017 be approved.

Carried

5. Developmental Framework for Teaching Expertise

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

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the Developmental Framework for Teaching Expertise in Postsecondary Education refers to the development of teaching expertise across all career stages, and describes activities that are inclusive, learning-centred, and collaborative. The development of teaching expertise includes approaches to teaching and supporting learning, professional development, mentorship, research and scholarship, and formal and informal educational leadership.
- The Committee discussed:
 - The concern that the framework's table may be interpreted as a rubric and used as a metric to measure teaching expertise, which is not the intention of the table. Members suggested that stronger framing language be used.
 - That in some units, sessional instructors are long term employees and could benefit from the content of this
 - The difference between the term 'expertise', which is meant to communicate that skills can be cultivated, and 'excellence'
 - That the Developmental Framework also serves as a tool for reflection
- The Committee suggested that the framework be shared with the Teaching Academy and other teaching award recipients, in addition to the Associate Deans Teaching and Learning, in order to gather additional feedback
- The Co-Chair reported that this item will return to the Committee for further discussion at a future meeting

6. University of Calgary Teaching Awards Updates

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Natasha Kenny, Director of the Educational

Development Unit, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that two minor administrative changes are being made to the University of Calgary Teaching Awards Call for Nominations: 1) changes to the structure of the adjudication committees to include, as appropriate, support staff, management and professional staff, and postdoctoral staff representatives, and revisions to consistently use “academic staff”, and 2) changes to broaden the requirement for data related to student evaluations to extend beyond Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI)
- The Committee discussed the proposed composition of the adjudication committees, and identified the omission of a graduate student on the adjudication committee for the Award for Librarians, Archivists and Curators
- The Committee suggested that it be made clear that an applicant will not be penalized if USRI data are not available or appropriate for submission (e.g. when a course is co-taught)
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that ‘academic staff’ includes sessional instructors

7. Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Nancy Chick, University Chair in Teaching and Learning and Director of the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (TI), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The TI sponsors and facilitates a variety of communities of practice, such as “Experiential and Community-Engaged Learning in the Humanities” and “Teaching Graduate Courses in the Faculty of Arts”, and the Committee was asked to share information on these with their units
- The TI has hosted several national and international visitors in the past few weeks, who are consulting and conducting research relating to teaching and learning practices
- The TI hosts a monthly ‘fika’ (a Swedish tradition that pauses the workday for coffee, pastries, and conversation with colleagues), and the next one will be held on November 16, 2017. The members of the Committee, and their interested colleagues, were encouraged to attend.

8. Report on the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference

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

Highlights:

- The Committee received a report on the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference, which was co-hosted by the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University from October 11-14, 2017. The theme of the conference was “Reaching New Heights”, and there were attendees from 24 countries.
- The Committee was referred to the website bit.ly/ISSOTL17-storify, which archives the social media posts made during the conference

9. Students' Union Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Tina Miller, Students' Union (SU) Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The SU's by-election has been held, and the new Students Legislative Council was sworn in on October 24, 2017
- Applications closed October 25, 2017 for the Undergrad Research Symposium. The number of applications is up this year.
- The deadline to nominate for the SU's Teaching Excellence Awards is October 27, 2017

10. Graduate Students' Association Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leanne Dawson, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) representative to the Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- Applications were due this month for the Academic Project Support Grants and Alberta Graduate Citizenship Awards
- The GSA's Peer Beyond Graduate Symposium will be held February 20, 2018, and will serve to highlight graduate students' research excellence and foster collaboration
- The Act Your Science workshops will be held in November 2017, and these aim to improve the Science communication skills of graduate students in Science disciplines

11. Other Business

It was reported that the Werklund School of Education is hosting two events on November 24, 2017 with Julia Christensen Hughes, Dean, College of Business, University of Guelph: 1) a lunchtime keynote address entitled "Understanding Academic Misconduct: Creating Robust Cultures of Integrity", and 2) an afternoon workshop entitled "Strengthening a Culture of Integrity at the University of Calgary". These events are open to academic staff and students, and members of the Committee are invited to attend.

12. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Teaching and Learning Committee adjourn the October 26, 2017 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.