

General Faculties Council
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 46
September 20, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Dawn Johnston, Academic Co-Chair
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting
Jessica Ayala – arrived during Item 4
Wendy Benoit
Sandra Goldsworthy – arrived during Item 4
Kent Hecker
Jennifer Lock
Leeanne Morrow
Nickie Nikolaou – arrived during Item 4
Brit Paris – arrived during Item 7
David Paskevich
Jessica Revington
Leighton Wilks

Regrets

Suzanne Curtin
Ian Holloway
Vera Parlac
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
U.T. Sundararaj

Non-Voting Members

Susan Barker – arrived during Item 4
Natasha Kenny
D’Arcy Moynagh
D’Arcy Norman
Ellen Perrault – arrived during Item 7
Kristal Turner
Daniel Wulff

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the September 20, 2018 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the year. The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

3. Approval of the May 31, 2018 Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on May 31, 2018 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the 2018-2019 TLC Work Plan

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

Highlights:

- The Co-Chair remarked that items of business not mentioned in the Work Plan can be added to the Committee's agendas as the year progresses
- During discussion, the Committee decided to add a line to the Work Plan to signal that the Committee would like to receive a variety of presentations over the course of the year, such as on the implementation of the Indigenous Strategy and the Mental Health Strategy, the embedded certificate credential, online and blended learning, the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, and the Information Technologies Strategic Plan
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that it is expected that the Experiential Learning Plan, currently at an early stage of development, will be brought to the Committee for consultation later this fall
- The Committee discussed its role in reviewing the 2017 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Action Plan Report, and the Co-Chair described that the report will include a summary of different University units' NSSE action plans and that the Committee will be asked to offer feedback on these. The Committee does not make any recommendations in relation to the NSSE.

Moved/Seconded

That the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the TLC Work Plan for the 2018-2019 academic year, in the form provided to the Committee, with the suggested revision.

Carried

5. Who are we? What do we do? What do we bring to the table? What do we take away from the table?

The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- Members introduced themselves, and each spoke about what they hope to learn or gain from attending the Committee's meetings, and the variety of skills and experiences that each brings to the table

- The Committee agreed with the Co-Chairs' suggestion that the Committee wrap up each meeting with a review of the primary take-aways from the meeting, in order to assist the members in sharing information with their units

6. Revisions to Teaching Scholars Program

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Natasha Kenny, Director of the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (TI) Educational Development Unit, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the three-year pilot of the Teaching Scholars Program will end in 2019, and that funding has been secured to continue the program (to add 3-4 scholars per year, for a total of 9-10 scholars). The program has supported educational leadership at the University, has positively impacted teaching and learning across the campuses, and has contributed to recent successes in other programs, including; a 3M National Fellowship, Canada Foundation for Innovation grant, and a Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations Distinguished Academic Award.
- The Committee discussed:
 - The proposed changes to the Call for Nominations for the 2019-2020 cohort in the Teaching Scholars Program, and in particular the identified strategic areas of focus (accessible learning, inclusivity and diversity, experiential learning, Indigenous perspectives, and online and blended learning)
 - That there is a research component to the program, such as in teaching innovation and educational leadership
 - How a Faculty's nominees to the Teaching Scholars Program will be chosen
 - The idea that members of the Committee could be involved in the selection process
- The Committee suggested that mental health be added as another strategic area of focus, or that an additional, open category of research be added to the program
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that more than one scholar may apply jointly for project funding
- The proponent reported that information about the revised Teaching Scholars Program will be presented at Deans' Council in October

7. Updates to Teaching Awards Program

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Natasha Kenny presented this item.

The proponent reported on recent changes to the Teaching Awards Program, which include adding clarity around the criteria for the awards and setting a page limit for the nomination dossiers. The next nomination deadline will be January 23, 2019.

8. Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Natasha Kenny and Ellen Perrault, TI Senior Director, presented this item.

The Co-Chair reminded the Committee that a detailed written report on recent initiatives within the TI is included in each meeting package.

Highlights:

- The TI is developing three non-credit courses for the Certificate in University Teaching and Learning for academic staff
- The TI is working on enhancing the Program for Undergraduate Research Experience, which is now operated within the TI's College of Discovery, Creativity, and Innovation, to improve engagement and the student experience

9. Students' Union Report

Jessica Revington, Students' Union (SU) representative to the Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The SU will soon be holding by-elections to fill vacant positions
- Nominations are open for the Fall session of the SU Teaching Excellence Awards. A celebratory event will be held in April.
- The SU was consulted on the redesign of the Student Centre portal. The redesigned portal will benefit students by making it easier for them to find what they need.
- The SU is working on an advocacy policy relating to Open Educational Resources, and this could be shared with the Committee later this year

10. Graduate Students' Association Report

Brit Paris, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) representative to the Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The GSA is renegotiating the Teaching Assistants contract, and trying to improve the process followed to hire Teaching Assistants
- A GSA Labour Relations Committee is being established, and part of its role will be to deal with employee contracts and to grieve if any contracts are not done properly
- The GSA was also consulted on the redesign of the Student Centre portal, as there is a different portal for graduate students
- Planning is underway for the next GSA Symposium

11. Other Business

The Committee reviewed the following take-aways from today's meeting, which should be shared with the members' units:

- Persons should be encouraged to learn about, and apply to, the Teaching Scholars Program
- Persons should be informed about the changes to the Teaching Awards program
- Information about the Teaching Assistants contracts should be discussed in the Faculties, to ensure the proper process for hiring is followed

12. Adjournment

The September 20, 2018 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.
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The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary