General Faculties Council
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 51
April 25, 2019, 2:00 p.m.   A167

Voting Members
Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting
Jessica Ayala – arrived during Item 4
Wendy Benoit
Sandra Goldsworthy
Kent Hecker
Stephanie Hladik
Jennifer Lock
David Paskevich
Elena Rangelova
Jessica Revington

Regrets
Dawn Johnston, Academic Co-Chair
Patti Dyjur
Ian Holloway
Leeanne Morrow
Nickie Nikolaou
Vera Parlac
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Leighton Wilks

Non-Voting Members
Susan Barker – left during Item 5
Geoff Crowe
Natasha Kenny
Kim Lenters
Kristal Turner
Daniel Wulff

Secretary
Susan Belcher

Scribe
Elizabeth Sjogren

Guest
Erin Kaipainen, Senior Specialist, Experiential Learning, Taylor Institute – present for Item 4

Observer
Kevin Dang, incoming Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)

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 April 25, 2019 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting be approved.
Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chair

The Co-Chair noted that the end of the Winter term is nearing, and encouraged members to take care of themselves and others during this often stressful time.

3. Approval of the March 28, 2019 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 28, 2019 be approved.
>
> **Carried**

4. Goals, Priorities and Common Language for Experiential Learning

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

Highlights:

- The proponents reviewed the proposed definition of Experiential Learning (EL), and the proposed framework of EL categories and related activities

- The Committee discussed that:

  o The University wishes to set a bold target for EL participation, and the national goal is that 100% of undergraduate students will have at least one EL opportunity before graduation. The province of Alberta does not yet have a mandated target, but this may come.

  o Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) is a sub-category of EL that occurs in a work or work-like setting, and includes cooperative education, internships, and practicums

  o Any definition of EL must be student-friendly, and there must be metrics to track experiences

  o It is important to have common EL language across disciplines

  o The proposed definition states that EL happens through "intentionally designed and assessed activities", but it was observed that some EL can happen on an impromptu basis and so consideration should be given to having the definition be less confining

  o The proposed definition states that EL "enables students to increase understanding, develop new skills and promote new ways of thinking and doing", but consideration could be given to saying that EL also develops students' values and identities

  o The proposed Experimentation/Simulation/Studio category of EL could encompass project-based courses as well as some course labs. It was explained that these are grouped together into a category because they have similar learning outcomes.

  o Critical reflection is a necessary component of EL

  o The proposed definition states that EL "opportunities prepare students to lead change and succeed in a complex world", but not all students will go on to lead change and so this statement should be reconsidered

- o The concepts of mentorship and feedback could be added to the definition

- o Consideration could be given to presenting the framework of EL categories and related activities using a Venn diagram rather than a table, as this might be a more meaningful representation of the complexities

- o Any definition or framework of EL categories must be flexibly-written in order to allow for emerging innovations

- The proponents reported that, following broad consultation in the coming months, it is expected that an Experiential Learning Plan, including the definition of EL and the framework of EL categories and related activities, will be brought to the General Faculties Council

5. Learning Technologies Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Committee reviewed the terms of reference for a new committee of the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) which will serve to analyse matters relating to campus learning technologies. The proponent reported that the work of the Learning Technologies Advisory Committee (LTAC) will include the consideration of platforms and the assessment of learning technologies-related concerns.

- The Committee discussed that the:
  - o Proactive work of the LTAC will enable informed decision-making at the University

  - o Use of WordPress as a content management system should be reconsidered, as there are security concerns and the Taylor Institute (TI) is not the best-equipped unit to manage this

  - o LTAC will be a valuable group to consider the adoption of specialized software and platforms, and to maintain awareness of the learning technologies that students are being asked to sign up for

  - o LTAC terms of reference should allow for the committee to form working groups as need arises

- In response to questions, the proponent reported that:
  - o It is intended that the LTAC's advisory group will consist of one representative from each academic unit, and that the LTAC will consult with persons, such as the University's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Coordinator, as needed

  - o Institutions in Alberta do not currently contract with learning technologies companies as a collective

- The proponent reported that the LTAC, including its steering committee and advisory group, will begin work in the Fall 2019 term

6. USRI Working Group Update

Leslie Reid presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Committee learned that the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) Working Group has begun meeting

- The presenter reported that broad consultation will soon be underway, and then changes to the University's USRI questionnaire will be brought through the University's governance system as appropriate

- In response to a question, the presenter confirmed that feedback to date has indicated that the USRI questionnaire should focus less on the behaviour of instructors and more on matters relating to the student experience

7. Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning Report

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

Highlights:

- A half-day retreat was held on April 15, 2019 to contribute to the development of the Experiential Learning Plan

- The annual University of Calgary Conference on Post-Secondary Learning and Teaching will be held April 29 - May 1, 2019. The theme is EL, and all of the sessions are registered at capacity

- The Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) adjudication process concluded this month, with 143 students receiving awards. In addition to peer lunch-and-learns, video resources, and skills workshops, a micro-credential in undergraduate research skills is currently in development.

- The TI is working to appoint to the following leadership positions: Director of the Educational Development Unit, Teaching and Learning Research Chair, and Director of Experiential Education

8. Students' Union Report

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

The SU's Open Educational Resources Advocacy Policy and a related issue briefing note, and a report on the SU's 2019 Teaching Excellence Awards Committee's selection meeting, were circulated to members at the meeting.

Highlights:

- The newly-elected SU Executive members are transitioning to their roles

- The SU's Open Educational Resources Advocacy Policy sets out the SU's stance on open educational resources (OER) and what the SU is advocating to be implemented. Representatives of the SU will continue to speak with government representatives and others about the importance of OER.

- The 2019 SU Teaching Excellence Awards Gala took place on April 23, 2019

- The SU's 'Get Out the Vote' campaign will be re-activated in advance of the upcoming federal election

9. **Graduate Students' Association Report**

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

Highlights:

- The GSA's Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium, most recently held on February 22, 2019, is now an annual event

- By-elections to fill the roles of the GSA's Vice-President (Academic) and Vice-President (Student Life) will be held at the end of April, and all of the new GSA Executive members will take office on May 1

- The GSA now has an Associate Vice-President (Labour), who will chair the GSA's Labour Relations Committee (LRC). The LRC will address matters such as ensuring that annual reporting requirements are in line with the Collective Agreement.

10. **Identification of Take-aways**

The Co-Chair identified the following take-aways from the meeting:

- The proposed definition of EL and the proposed framework of EL categories and related activities can be shared with colleagues, and any feedback sent to the proponents

- Because the terms of reference of the LTAC have been shared with the Faculties' Associate Deans of Teaching and Learning, members can encourage the selection of their Faculty's representative to the LTAC advisory group

- Members can encourage colleagues to think constructively about the USRI questionnaire, in advance of the broad consultation efforts

- The content in the TI report can be shared with colleagues

11. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

12. **Adjournment**

The April 25, 2019 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary