

General Faculties Council
TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 74
April 19, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Wendy Benoit
William Bridel
Tracey Clancy – left during Item 5
Heather Ganshorn
Diane Gereluk
Yani Jazayeri – left during Item 4
Jennifer Markides – arrived during Item 2
Fabian Neuhaus – arrived during Item 4
Evaristus Oshionebo
Alex Paquette
Renzo Pereyra
Jason Wiens

Non-Voting Members

Susan Barker
Natasha Kenny – arrived during Item 2
D’Arcy Norman
Trevor Poffenroth
Justine Wheeler

Secretary and Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Barbara Brown, Academic Co-Chair
Fabiola Aparicio-Ting
Michelle Drefs
Barb McCutcheon
Brenda McDermott
Hieu Ngo
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Amy Warren
Leighton Wilks

Guests

Robin Arseneault, Teaching and Learning Project Coordinator, Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning
– present for Item 5
Kyla Flanagan, Academic Lead, College of Discovery, Creativity, and Innovation; Experiential Learning
Team; Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning – present for Item 4
Shaziah Jinnah, incoming Students’ Union Vice-President (Academic)

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

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

That the Agenda for the April 19, 2022 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chair

The Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Today is the first day of final exams for the Winter 2022 semester. This is a stressful time, and some students are sitting their first in-person university exam. It is important to maintain kindness, compassion, and attention to student and faculty mental health.
- Renzo Pereyra, Students Union (SU) Vice-President (Academic), and Alex Paquette, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Vice-President (Academic), were acknowledged on this occasion of their last meeting. Shaziah Jinnah, incoming SU Vice-President (Academic), was welcomed.

3. Approval of the March 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on March 15, 2022 be approved.

Carried

4. Update on Undergraduate Research Initiatives and the College of Discovery, Creativity, and Innovation

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Kyla Flanagan presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reminded the Committee that the College of Discovery, Creativity, and Innovation (CDCI) was created as part of the implementation of the University's 2012 Academic Plan, as a place to connect students from across units to undergraduate research, and then provided an update on the undergraduate research landscape, including that:
 - The University's National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) data indicates that 41% of first-year students aim to have a research experience during their time as an undergraduate student, with 24% of senior students reporting that they have had an undergraduate research opportunity. When asked to describe their most significant learning experience, the second-most frequent comment by senior students was about undergraduate research.
 - 93% of curricular research opportunities occur in 400 and 500 level courses, and 3% involve community-engaged research

- The CDCI supported over 1,660 students, over 260 research supervisors, 20 research coaches and 11 community partners
- The CDCI has three initiatives:
 - UNIV 302: Research on Global Challenges – this course has 5 streams: 1) Digital Worlds, 2) Conserving Freshwater Ecosystems, 3) Indigenous Experiences with Police, 4) Humans, Animals and the Environment, and 5) Toward a More Accessible Canada
 - Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CURE) – this initiative currently has 8 courses
 - Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) – this program provides financial support to undergraduate students to conduct research for 8, 12 or 16 weeks between May and August
- These initiatives help students to gain understanding of how researchers work on real problems and understanding of research methods and processes, to develop abilities in analysing information, interpreting results and integrating theory and practice, and to learn research collaboration and communication skills
- The CDCI has some new initiatives launching:
 - Ready for Research – this is a cocurricular microcredential badging program
 - A development badge for faculty who are designing a CURE
 - A new platform for the PURE awards program
- Discussion included:
 - The Global Challenges course is not available to all students, such as those in professional programs
 - It is desirable to have more curricular research opportunities at the 200 and 300 levels. This would be valuable to students in Honours programs and would potentially help students to compete for opportunities in the workforce.
 - Some institutions pair students with graduate students to work on things such as literature reviews and data analysis, and maybe the University could establish a program providing undergraduates with similar learning opportunities
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Ethics approval can be a limitation for some PURE projects, as students only have up to 16 weeks to complete
 - For CUREs, some instructors design projects that will not require ethics approval or they can obtain ethics approval for the course, encompassing projects
 - The CDCI is building a repository of courses on the CUREs webpage, and this will provide examples to others who are interested in developing courses. The CDCI will be publishing stories in UToday as a means of reaching people who wish to become involved.
 - Instructors who wish to develop CUREs do not need to formally work with the CDCI, but the CDCI is available to help as needed
 - A resource entitled *A Guide for Undergraduate Research* at UCalgary is available on the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (TI) website

5. Terms of Reference for the Course Feedback Implementation Working Group

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Co-Chair and Robin Arseneault presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) Working Group Recommendations Report was received by the General Faculties Council (GFC) at its April 7, 2022 meeting, and the GFC approved that the Teaching and Learning Committee will oversee the appropriate actioning of the recommendations including the formation of the Course Feedback Implementation Working Group
- The presenters confirmed that the Course Feedback Implementation Working Group will be a working group reporting to the Committee, and will be responsible for developing priorities and timelines for the USRI system overhaul, identifying what decisions need to go through governance, and reporting
- The Co-Chair thanked the members of the USRI Working Group for all of their efforts, and reported that the USRI Working Group will be dissolved when the Course Feedback Implementation Working Group is formed, as this next phase requires different membership expertise
- The Co-Chair indicated that the Course Feedback Implementation Working Group Terms of Reference (ToR) is being presented for feedback today and will return to the Committee for approval once finalised
- Discussion included:
 - The proposed membership of the working group, and how the members will be chosen
 - That the working group's responsibilities, as set out in Section 4 of the ToR, could be more detailed
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - There will be broad consultation beyond the working group as the course feedback system is overhauled
 - It is understood that most student members will only serve a one-year term on the working group

6. Teaching and Learning Updates and Emerging Issues Roundtable

The Committee was given an opportunity to talk about current matters relating to teaching and learning and discussion focused on deadlines, including that:

- Instructors should not be setting deadlines or timed assessments on days when the University is closed, such as statutory holidays or during the reading break, and Department Heads will be reminded to look for this when reviewing course outlines
- The holidays calendar will be redistributed to instructors
- Section G (Examinations and Tests) of the University Calendar could be revised to make the regulations more explicit

7. Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning Report

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

Highlights:

- The Experiential Learning (EL) website has launched, and this will evolve as EL continues to grow at the University. Members are encouraged to share information about the new website across their networks.
- Over 300 persons have registered for the 2022 University of Calgary Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching: Moving Forward in a Good Way to Nurture the Spirit of Learning in Postsecondary Education. The sessions and keynote addresses descriptions are now posted. The pre-conference will be held in person on May 1, 2022 and the main conference will be held online May 2-3, 2022.
- The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion badge for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, part of the certificate program, is being offered April 4-29, 2022, both asynchronously and synchronously. This badge will expand to become available to academic staff in the future.
- The TI staff have been working very hard during the pandemic, but this is an especially busy time and they are acknowledged for their efforts

8. Graduate Students' Association Report

Alex Paquette, GSA representative on the Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- A tool for Teaching Assistants has launched that will help them in supporting student mental health and their own mental health. The GSA, in conjunction with the TI, will be conducting a survey regarding the mental health of graduate students.
- The Academic Integrity team is praised for their work in getting students involved in academic integrity awareness, and future initiatives are looked forward to

9. Students' Union Report

Renzo Pereyra, SU representative on the Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The SU's Teaching Excellence Awards received 702 nominations. The SU expresses its gratitude to all instructors who inspire students.
- The SU has been continuing its work relating to Open Educational Resources, and soon will be releasing its recommendations relating to this

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

The April 19, 2022 meeting of the Teaching and Learning Committee was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Elizabeth Sjogren
Meeting Secretary