

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Ralph Deters

DATE OF MEETING: June 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee Annual Report

COUNCIL ACTION: For Information Only

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
2024-2025**

The Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee (TLARC) deals with a range of teaching and learning issues at the university.

The committee is composed primarily of faculty from colleges and departments across the institution who share their experience and expertise in many areas. University staff, who sit as committee members or resource people, provide important input from administrative and technical perspectives.

Terms of Reference:

- 1) Commissioning, receiving and reviewing reports related to teaching, learning and academic resources to support the delivery of academic programs and services at the University of Saskatchewan.
- 2) Making recommendations to Council and the Planning and Priorities committee on policies, activities and priorities to enhance the effectiveness, evaluation and scholarship of teaching, learning and academic resources at the University of Saskatchewan.
- 3) Promoting student, instructor and institutional commitments and responsibilities, as set out in the University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter and as reflected in the top priority areas of the University of Saskatchewan integrated plans.

- 4) Designating individuals to act as representatives of the committee on any other bodies, when requested, where such representation is deemed by the committee to be beneficial.
- 5) The committee will carry out all of the above in the spirit and philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people. As one of the university's priority areas in Indigenization, this includes rigorous and supportive programs for indigenous student success, engagement with Indigenous communities, and the creation of learning outcomes tied to Indigenous content and experiences grounded in Indigenous world views. In this context, Indigenous refers to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people of Canada. In addition, the prioritization of internationalization calls the committee to a focus on intercultural and international engagement among students, educators, and staff.

Membership

Membership comprises 11 members of the GAA, at least 5 of whom will be members of Council; includes 1 sessional lecturer.

Council Members

Ralph Deters (Chair)	Arts & Science	2026
Kate Congreves	Agriculture & Bioresources	2027
John Gjevre	Medicine	2026
Natasha Hubbard-Murdoch	Nursing	2027
Marguerite Koole	Education	2025

General Academic Assembly Members

Natacha Hogan (Vice-Chair)	Agriculture & Bioresources	2026
Alec Aitken	Arts & Science	2025
Sara Donkers	Medicine	2025
Kelly Foley	Arts & Science	2025
Ken MacKenzie	Arts & Science	2027
Greg Malin	Medicine	2026

Sessional

Colin Miner		2025
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Student Members

Elisabeth Bauman	USSU (VP Academic Affairs)	2025
Reza Golpayegani	GSA (VP External Affairs)	2025

Ex-Officio (voting)

Jerome Cranston	Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning
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Resource Members (non-voting)

Michael Barr	AVP ICT & CIO
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Debby Burshtyn	Dean, CGPS
JoAnn Murphy	(Designate for) Dean, University Library
Nancy Turner	Interim Associate Provost, Teaching Innovation & Strategic Initiatives
Candice Weingartner	Director, Enterprise Systems
Kate Langrell	Copyright Coordinator
Lissa de Freitas	Governance Office, Committee Coordinator

Overview of TLARC Committee Responsibilities:

To accomplish its broad mandate of supporting the delivery of academic programs and services at the University of Saskatchewan, TLARC meets regularly as a full committee and separately in working groups dedicated to specific topics. TLARC members, therefore, have four responsibilities: (1) receiving information about teaching and learning, (2) providing critical input and insight, (3) voting on teaching and learning issues, policies, and processes, and (4) contributing expertise and advice to a working group.

Meeting Structure:

TLARC met as a full committee seven times during the 2024-25 academic year with meetings held in-person.

Guest Presentations, Issues, Discussions, and Work Completed

TLARC welcomed presentations from several guests/members who shared information and updates on programs and university-wide strategies, including:

- Dr. Jerome Cranston re: Workforce Summit Feedback
- Dr. Wendy James and Dr. Nancy Turner re: Draft Assessment Policy and Procedures
- Dr. Scott Walsworth re: USask Standards for Promotion and Tenure: Revisions for Consideration
- Dr. Wendy James & Dr. Susan Bens re: Faculty Survey Results and Integrity Supports
- Dr. Ralph Deters re: Artificial Intelligence Demonstrations
- Dr. Nancy Turner re: Advancing AI: Ethical and Responsible use at USask
- Dr. Wendy James & Ann-Marie Rollo re: Grading Reflections

The Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee has convened seven times to engage in substantive discussions on critical issues affecting teaching and learning at the University.

Vice-Provost Students and Learning, Dr. Jerome Cranston, provided an update on the National Summit on Canada's Future Workforce, emphasizing a growing skills gap linked to retirements in the trades. The committee reflected on the implications for post-secondary institutions, underscoring the importance of enhancing career readiness, digital literacy, and transferable skills. Particular attention was given to the potential of intergenerational learning models as a means of fostering mentorship and skill development.

Dr. Scott Walsworth, Vice-Provost Faculty Relations, participated in a session focused on the revision of Standards for the New Tenure Track Teaching Stream. The discussion addressed teaching loads, the allocation of time for educational leadership, and the alignment of standards with institutional commitments to decolonization and Indigenization.

The committee also devoted significant attention to the implications of generative artificial intelligence in the academic environment. A faculty survey on AI literacy and application revealed a pressing need for support resources, illustrative examples, and clear institutional guidelines. Discussions emphasized the role of academic integrity supports in articulating expectations for AI use and in responding to emerging forms of academic misconduct. The complexities of maintaining assessment security in the context of AI were explored, with proposed strategies including the redesign of assignments and strengthening communication with students.

Acknowledgements and Thanks

As the 2024-2025 academic year comes to a close, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication and hard work.

A special thank you goes to our exceptional coordinator from the Governance Office, Lissa de Freitas. Your meticulous coordination of our meetings, management of essential documentation, and overall support have been invaluable to our committee's smooth functioning and success. Your administrative contributions are deeply appreciated.

To all the committee members, thank you for generously dedicating your time and insightful perspectives during our seven full committee meetings. Your critical input on various important teaching and learning matters, policies, and processes has been instrumental in achieving the committee's objectives. I also extend my special thanks to our executive team, Vice-Chair Natacha Hogan and Jerome Cranston, for their outstanding leadership throughout the year.

Finally, I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the presenters who willingly shared their expertise and time with the committee. Thank you to Dr. Jerome Cranston (Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning) for your valuable insights on the Workforce Summit Feedback. We also extend our thanks to Dr. Wendy James and Dr. Nancy Turner for presenting the Draft Assessment Policy and Procedures, to Dr. Scott Walsworth (Vice-Provost Faculty Relations) for your presentation on the USask Standards for Promotion and Tenure revisions, to Dr. Wendy James and Dr. Susan Bens for sharing the Faculty Survey Results and information on Integrity Supports, to Dr. Nancy Turner for your presentation on Advancing AI: Ethical and Responsible Use at USask, and finally, to Dr. Wendy James and Ann-Marie Rollo for leading the important discussion on Grading Reflections.

Thank you once again for your commitment and contributions to the Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee this academic year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Deters

Dr. Ralph Deters, Chair
Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee of Council (TLARC)