

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
TEACHING, LEARNING AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

PRESENTED BY: Jay Wilson, Chair, Teaching and Learning Committee of Council
DATE OF MEETING: June 18, 2015
SUBJECT: **Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee
Annual Report**
COUNCIL ACTION: For Discussion Only

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
TEACHING, LEARNING AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF
COUNCIL
2014-15**

The Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee is a relatively new committee of University Council which deals with a range of teaching and learning issues at the university. This committee was formed by merging the former Teaching and Learning Committee and the former Academic Support Committee.

The number of university staff on the new committee is limited. However, the committee does not want to lose the valuable expertise and experience of the administrative and technical staff who served on the previous committees. The TLARC Executive has developed a category of “associate member” of the Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee. These individuals will receive meeting agendas, and have access to the TLARC meeting website, and can attend meetings on request of the TLARC Executive, or on their own initiative, whenever there are relevant items on an agenda.

Terms of Reference

- 1) Commissioning, receiving and reviewing scholarship and reports related to teaching, learning and academic resources, with a view to supporting 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 priority areas of the University of Saskatchewan Integrated Plans.

- 4) Designating individuals to act as representatives of the committee on any other bodies where such representation is deemed by the committee to be beneficial.
- 5) Carrying out all the above in the spirit of a philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people, with particular attention to rigorous and supportive programs for Aboriginal student success, engagement with Aboriginal communities, inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and experience in curricular offerings, and intercultural engagement among faculty, staff and students.

Membership

Council Members (5)

Bev Brenna	Curriculum Studies	2016
Kathleen James-Caven	English	2015
Alison Muri	English	2016
Aaron Phoenix	Engineering	2016
Jay Wilson (Chair)	Curriculum Studies	2017

General Academic Assembly Members (6)

Takuji Tanaka	Food and Bioproduct Sciences	2017
Marcel D'Eon	Community Health and Epidemiology	2016
Trisha Dowling	Veterinary Biomedical Sciences	2015
Randy Kutcher	Crop Development Centre	2017
Lachlan McWilliams	Psychology	2017
Ken Van Rees	Soil Science	2017

Desirée Steele, VP Academic, USSU

	Undergraduate Student member	
Mostafa Aghbolaghy	Graduate Student member	
Patti McDougall	Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning	

(Sessional Lecturer)

Michael McGarity	English, St. Thomas More	2015
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Resource Personnel

Mark Roman	CIO and Associate Vice President ICT
Vicki Williamson	Dean, University Library
Nancy Turner	Acting Director, Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness
Cheri Spooner,	Director of Distance Learning, Off-Campus and Certificate Programs

Administrative Support

Amanda Storey	Committee Coordinator, Office of the University Secretary
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Associate Members

Bryan Bilokreli, Director, Capital Planning
Kelly Bendig, Audit Services
Frank Bulk, University Learning Centre
Ron Cruikshank, Facilities Management Division
Maxine Kinakin, Disability Services for Students
Nancy Turner, Program Director, GMCTE
TBD, Copyright Coordinator

Monisha Skukla, ICT
Adrienne Thomas

Issues and discussions

The Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources committee of Council met 10 times during the 2014/15 year and addressed many issues that have an impact on teaching and learning activities at the University of Saskatchewan.

Working groups

At its September 10, 2014 meeting, the committee identified four general priorities for committee development, and formed four working groups to address these priorities. These working groups are:

Evaluation of Teaching (Chair: Patti McDougall)

The evaluation of teaching working group had been active in 2013/14, crafting procedural language around the student-based evaluations. That group determined that a policy would be necessary to outline the purpose, principles, scope and responsibilities associated with student-based evaluations, and so the working group carried on into 2014/15. The working group presented a draft policy to the larger TLARC committee in February. The full committee recommended some changes to the policy document and offered support. The working group will now take the policy to the Policy Oversight Committee before bringing it back to TLARC to bring it to University Council.

Experiential Learning (Chair: Patti McDougall)

The experiential learning working group was struck to address a goal outlined in the Third Integrated Plan of increasing experiential learning activity by 20% by 2016 (now 2017). The working group mapped out a definition of experiential learning to be used at the U of S, described the benefits associated with experiential learning, and contemplated methods of increasing awareness of existing experiential learning activities. The working group has worked with the Registrar's office to enable "tagging" of experiential learning courses in the registration system with a pilot set to run in the June 2015 registration window. The working group has also been actively working on a web presence for experiential learning that will house information for faculty and staff.

Future Learning Technologies (Chair: Randy Kutcher)

The future learning technologies working group was struck to discuss the use of new and current technologies available to faculty to facilitate teaching. The working group worked with ICT and GMCTE to develop a technology use survey to be provided to faculty and staff in order to gain better insight into how technology is being used. The working group has also identified the classroom renewal project as one that could benefit from a better understanding of technology use and adoption of emerging technologies.

Indigenizing the Curriculum (Chair: Candace Wasacase-Lafferty)

The indigenizing the curriculum working group has focussed much of its efforts this year on developing language to invoke at the start of important meetings (such as Council) and ceremonies (such as Convocation) to acknowledge this land as treaty 6 territory and the relationship that that treaty entails. Consultation occurred with many stakeholders, elders,

and community members through a survey in order to develop appropriate and inclusive language.

Reports received

The committee received updates from the office of the Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning in October and in April regarding the reorganization of her portfolio in response to recommendations stemming from Institutional Priorities. At both meetings, good and constructive conversation happened about the services previously provided by eMAP and the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education (CCDE) and their continuation as part of the Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning's portfolio and also ICT and the Library.

The committee discussed the institutional priorities in relation to teaching and learning activities in December and January. The committee noted that they are actively working on some priority areas, such as the goal to accelerate the delivery of TLARC's commitment to Aboriginal achievement, with a working group focusing on indigenizing the curriculum. The committee also identified areas where they could be more active as changes occur, such as the reorganization of Graduate Studies, as TLARC is, at this time, not particularly active or concerned with graduate students.

The committee was particularly interested in priority 8 (aligning administrative services culture to support and facilitate the academic mission). In response to this, the committee received a presentation from Human Resources on the Service Delivery and Design project, that aimed at identifying the services provided by administrative staff at the U of S to determine how the institution might refocus their workforce to effectively deliver services to students and faculty.

Other activities

Chris Scribe, Director of the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP), College of Education was invited to discuss the Indian Teacher Education Program and indigenous education on campus.

The committee made modifications to terms of reference for the committee in regards to composition and wording to encourage more indigenous expertise on the committee.

The committee received a draft policy on student-based evaluation of teaching and learning and provided feedback on the draft, as well as support for the policy going forward.

Committee Chair Jay Wilson provided information at the March 19th University Council meeting to raise awareness of the important role of TLARC and to share some of the specific activities of the four working groups.

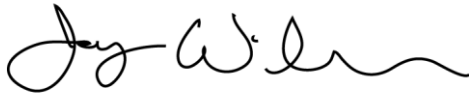
Members of TLARC took a long-overdue tour of the library and teaching facilities in the new Health Sciences buildings in April, and were all impressed with the thoughtful design, the focus on energy efficiency, and the emphasis on cross-disciplinary research. Members also acknowledged and appreciated the care that went into designing useful common and study spaces throughout the building.

TLARC provided formal representation at the Information Systems Steering Committee, Academic Systems Steering Committee, and University Classroom Renewal Committee as well as invited attendance at the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council.

Acknowledgements

As the Chair I would like to recognize the efforts of those individuals who supported the work of TLARC: The executive committee of Allison Muri (who served as vice chair), Patti McDougall, Mark Roman, and Nancy Turner. They provided both guidance and leadership to all aspects of TLARC. The impressive collection of support from Beth Williamson, Alex Beldan, Sandra Calver and Amanda Storey, all of whom made significant contributions to the success of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jay Wilson, Teaching & Learning Committee of Council