

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

PRESENTED BY: Jay Wilson, Chair, Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee of Council

DATE OF MEETING: October 20, 2016

SUBJECT: Learning Charter Update

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

In January 2016, Council made a motion in support of inclusion of Indigenous knowledges and experiences in all degree programs at the University of Saskatchewan. Prior to this motion, the teaching, learning, and academic resources committee of Council was already looking to the *Learning Charter* as the place to reflect an institutional commitment to ensuring Indigenous knowledge and experiences grounded in Indigenous worldviews are part of every degree-level program at the U of S, in response to the motion made by the USSU in November 2015.

TLARC is actively engaged in critically examining the *Learning Charter* to see how it could be used to achieve the institution's goals around indigenous content in our academic programs. The committee as a whole proposed initial changes to the language in the *Learning Charter* to reflect a responsibility to include Indigenous knowledge and worldviews in academic programs and began consultation with Indigenous faculty and staff.

A *Learning Charter* Summit was held in May 2016 for members of TLARC and Indigenous faculty and staff, and it became clear that this project will only be successful with their continued involvement. Consultation with the Indigenous members of our community at various stages for their feedback is a key component moving forward with this work. The committee will continue its collaborative approach to redrafting the *Learning Charter* in order to respect and build on these relationships. Another summit was held with our Indigenous community members October 6, 2016, and we will continue these important meetings throughout the process, relying on experience and wisdom of that group to advise TLARC on additional consultations that may be required.

In addition to the *Learning Charter* work, the vice-provost teaching and learning is conducting a scan of current U of S programing to determine what currently exists in courses or programs. This scan will identify the range of initiatives promoting Indigenous knowledge and experiences grounded in Indigenous worldviews to better understand what we are doing currently and where and how we will need to change and improve going forward.