

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

PRESENTED BY: Alec Aiten, Chair, Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee of Council

DATE OF MEETING: June 21, 2018

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
2017-18**

The Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee 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 campus who share their experience and expertise in many areas. The number of university staff officially on the committee is small but it is important to have input from administrative and technical staff. To address this need, the TLARC Executive has developed a category of “associate member” of the Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee. These individuals 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

Alec Aitken (chair)	Geography and Planning	2018
Tamara Larre	Law	2018
Len Findlay	English	2019
Jon Gjevre	Medicine	2019
Vince Bruni-Bossio (vice-chair)	Management and Marketing	2020
Petros Papagerakis	Dentistry	2020

General Academic Assembly Members

Michel Gravel	Chemistry	2018
Marie Battiste	Educational Foundations	2019
Eric Micheels	Agriculture and Resource Economics	2020
Sean Maw	Ron and Jane Graham School of Professional Development	2020
Jo Ann Murphy	Library	2020

Sessional Lecturer

Darrell Bueckert	Mathematics and Statistics	2018
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Other members

Patti McDougall	Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience
Shari Baraniuk	Chief Information Officer, Information and Communications Technology
Melissa Just	Dean, University Library
Cheri Spooner	Director, Distance Education Unit
Nancy Turner	Director, Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning
Chad Coller	Director, ICT Academic and Learning Enhancement
Jessica Quan	VP Academic Affairs, USSU
Iloradanon Efimoff	Indigenous Liaison, GSA
Candace Wasacase-Lafferty	Director, Indigenous Initiatives
Coral Sawchyn	Secretary/Committee Coordinator, VPTL Service Team (for the Office of the University Secretary)

Associate Member

Kate Langrell, Copyright Coordinator

Issues and discussions

The Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee of Council met 11 times during the 2017/18 year and addressed many issues that have an impact on teaching and learning activities at the University of Saskatchewan.

Working groups

At its September 2017 meeting, the committee identified four general priorities for committee development, and determined that two of the working groups established previously still represent priorities, and established two additional working groups in November 2017. These working groups are:

Student Experience of Teaching and Learning (Chair: Patti McDougall)

The Student Experience of Teaching and Learning working group has been active since 2013/14, crafting procedural and policy language around student-based evaluations. Worked continued through 2017/18 with the pilot of a Student Experience in Teaching and Learning Questionnaire (SETLQ), developed out of the University of Toronto, with the intent of replacing the existing SEEQ instrument. Five colleges and schools participated in the pilot which was deemed successful by the working group and sanctioned by TLARC at its March, 2018 meeting. A motion that SETLQ be designated the validated, institutionally supported student experience of teaching and learning instrument at the University of Saskatchewan and that the approval process for minor modifications to the SETLQ core question set based on validation results or requested by colleges/departments be delegated to TLARC, was presented to University Council on April 19, 2018.

Learning Charter (Chair: Nancy Turner)

After discussion of changes needed to the Learning Charter, including a thought-provoking and meaningful summit in October 2016, work on changing the Learning Charter began in earnest in early 2017. Nancy Turner and Stryker Calvez are leading a working group of TLARC members and Indigenous staff and faculty to look at what meaningful changes can be incorporated into the Learning Charter to help meet the University's goal of incorporating Indigenous content and ways of knowing into every academic program. Work continued through 2017/18 and a draft revision was presented and approved at TLARC in March 2017. After a thoughtful discussion, TLARC determined that further wordsmithing and consultation would take place through the spring and summer and the revised Learning Charter will go to University Council in September 2018.

Wellness Strategy (Chairs: Nancy Turner and Petros Papagerakis)

At its October 2017 meeting, TLARC recommended the development of a new working group to look at teaching and program development guidelines for faculty to ensure the wellness of students. Work commenced throughout 2018 with the development of a project charter focusing on the mental well-being of students.

Faculty Development (Chair: Vince Bruni-Bossio)

At its October 2017 meeting, TLARC recommended the development of a new working group to help identify additional ways to support faculty on campus. The focus of the work throughout 2018 was to brainstorm and conceptualize the working groups focus and strategy.

Reports received

There were no reports received in 2017-2018.

Other activities

TLARC received an update on the definition of Indigenization that was developed by Indigenous faculty in 2017 and the work done to gain student perspectives on Indigenization. Two events were held on campus in March 2017 and October 2017 consisting of small and large group discussions. TLARC was very grateful for the work that was undertaken to gain student perspectives on the definition of Indigenization.

TLARC received an update on teaching technology at the university and work being undertaken to replace the video lecture capture system and other ICT service and support initiatives.

The committee participated in two consultations relating to the University Plan 2025 and provided comments and feedback to the provost and vice-president academic. The committee agreed that the university plan as a framework will create inspiring ideas.

TLARC was presented with and reviewed a draft of a new IT communications services policy intended to replace the existing e-mail policy.

TLARC received an update from the co-curricular record advisory committee on the developments of the co-curricular transcript that will be a personalized and official record that formally acknowledges university approved activities in which our students engage, and that are beyond their academic work. It was agreed that the co-curricular advisory committee will report yearly to TLARC on its activities and TLARC will include this information in its annual report to University Council.

The committee was presented with an update on the international blueprint and the objectives and outcomes that are anticipated to be achieved by 2020.

Acknowledgements

As the Chair, I would like to recognize the efforts of those individuals who supported the work of TLARC: the executive committee of Vince Bruni-Bossio (who served as vice chair), Patti McDougall, Nancy Turner and Shari Baraniuk. They provided both guidance and leadership to all aspects of TLARC. To all of the University Council and General Academic Assembly members who volunteered their time and energy to sustain the work of TLARC, thank you. I would also like to recognize the excellent administrative support of Coral Sawchyn.

Respectfully submitted,



Alec Aitken, Chair, Teaching, Learning and Academic Resource Committee of Council