

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
TEACHING LEARNING AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

PRESENTED BY: Vince Bruni-Bossio, chair, teaching, learning and academic resources committee of Council
Patti McDougall, vice provost teaching, learning and student experience

DATE OF MEETING: October 25, 2018

SUBJECT: Request for Decision: Learning Charter

DECISIONS REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

- *That Council approve the revised Learning Charter.*

PURPOSE:

The revision to the Learning Charter was initiated by the Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee of Council (TLARC) in 2016 with the intention of creating a document that better reflects our current circumstance and expectations in teaching and learning practices, particularly in relation to the inclusion of Indigenous knowledges and experiences grounded in Indigenous worldviews across all degree programs. The revision allows us to build on the strong foundation of the 2010 Charter whilst better reflecting the institution we are in 2018 and aspire to be in the future. Ultimately the revision has aimed to develop a Charter that supports more inclusive learning processes and outcomes.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The Learning Charter was approved by University Council in June 2010 as the integrative framework for linking aims, values, and principles surrounding teaching and learning to behaviours that optimize student learning and discovery. As conceived and developed in 2010, the Learning Charter has served as an educational tool for communicating goals, commitments, and responsibilities to all who partner to support and advance learning (students, instructors and the institution), and as a tool for organizing, evaluating, and further developing policies that affect teaching

and learning. Since its approval in 2010 the Learning Charter has been used in many ways across our campuses including:

- As a guide for the development of program level learning outcomes for academic programs (e.g. all new programs need to identify at the proposal stage how the Learning Charter's core learning goals are addressed by the program)
- Through incorporation of the commitments and responsibilities as well as the core learning goals into college rituals to indicate the expectations of the role into which students entering a program of study are stepping (e.g. Law first year welcoming ceremony – student commitment)
- In use by faculty on the first day of class as a means of discussing the commitments that all members of the class make in engaging together in learning and their associated responsibilities.

The revision process has appropriately taken time and involved a broad group of faculty, staff and students. Several large gatherings in 2016 and 2017 allowed for the development of a clear direction that was progressed by a TLARC working group over the past 18 months. The document you have received is the result of much thought, dialogue and several iterative revisions.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT:

- May 2016 gathering (Jay Wilson, Patti McDougall, Nancy Turner, Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, Gail MacKay, Marilyn Poitras, Chris Scribe, Stryker Calvez, Margret Asmuss, Candace Peete, Jaris Swidrovich, Amanda Storey)
- October 2016 gathering (Bob Badger, Robert Beaver, Maria Campbell, Jaris Swidrovich, Kristina Bidwell, Yvette Arcand, Chris Scribe, Dawn Wallin, Jay Wilson, Patti McDougall, Marie Battiste, Len Findlay, Brooke Malinoski, Carolyn Gaspar, Tamara Larre, Nancy Turner, John Gjevre, Randy Kutcher, Ken Van Rees, Tak Tanaka, Margret Asmuss, Candace Wasacase-Lafferty)
- Working group members (Kristina Bidwell, Stryker Calvez, Nancy Turner, Patti McDougall, Marie Battiste, Yvette Arcand, Benjamin Hoy, Jay Wilson, Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, Blair Pisio, Iloradanon Efimoff, Rose Roberts)
- All TLARC members in 2016/17, 2017/18
- Groups and individuals who provided input February through May 2018:
 - College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
 - Associate Deans Academic
 - Vice Provost Indigenous Engagement Jackie Ottman
 - University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
 - International Activities Committee of Council
 - International Operations Committee
 - Graduate Students' Association
 - Student Employment and Career Centre
 - Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning
 - Library faculty and staff
 - Student Learning Services Peer Mentors

- Many faculty and staff (Dirk Morrison, Preston Smith, Lois Berry, Chris Scribe, Graeme Joseph, Tom Ellis, Dirk deBoer, Larry Chartrand, Rob Innes, and more)

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

While there has been extensive use of the Learning Charter over the past eight years it is acknowledged that more can be done to incorporate the practicalities and ethos of the Learning Charter into the teaching and learning practices across our institution. A comprehensive implementation plan will be developed to foster institution wide engagement with the Charter on approval by Council.

The document being considered today is a rich reflection of the many and diverse perspectives that have contributed to the revision, capturing the values and aspirations of the University of Saskatchewan. It is presented here as built on the strong foundation of the 2010 Charter, providing a framework for teaching and learning practices now and into the future.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Learning Charter 2018 Revised edition