General Faculties Council
Committee on the Learning Environment
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 06, 2019
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Sarah Forgie	Norma Rodenburg	Janice Causgrove Dunn
Darcy Ashley (delegate)	Jennifer Tupper	Masoud Aliramezani
Dale Askey	Mani Vaidyanathan	Akanksha Bhatnagar
Reed Larsen (delegate)	Stanley Varnhagen	
Robert Desjardins	Janet Wesselius	Also attending:
Kyle Foster	Christine Wiesenthal	Jeff Rawlings
Mike MacGregor	Kevin Zentner	
Brian Maraj		Staff:
Janice Miller-Young	Regrets:	Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Miller-Young/Tupper

> THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Agenda.
>
> **CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 6, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Varnhagan/Desjardins

> THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Open Session Minutes of February 6, 2019.
>
> **CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

The Chair noted that the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) had engaged someone to write a white paper on handwritten exams and that this would be brought back to the committee for further discussion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Revisions to the Graduate Teaching and Learning Program, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Deanna Davis, Professional Development Instructional Design Specialist, GTLP Principal Instructor, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Discussion:
Dr Davis provided an overview of the program and noted the changes made to provide greater clarity for students and ensure they receive consistently high quality experience. She provided an overview of the changes which included structural changes to ensure students had achieved the skills and competencies at each level, instituting eclass to track progress through the levels, utilizing microteaching, requirements for a teaching development plan, and critical reflection at all 4 levels. Dr Davis provided an overview of when each level was offered and noted the following objectives for each level:
Level 1 – Be a better TA
Level 2 – Be a better teacher
Level 3 – Become a principal instructor
Level 4 – engage with teaching research and scholarship

Members asked about or commented on: transcript notation, microteaching, length of progam, opportunity for experienced TAs to opt in part way through, the need for formal training in addition to experience. Members also expressed support for the program and noted the importance of ensuring students are aware of this at an early stage in their program.

5. Can we predict the future of postsecondary education?

Item deferred.

6. Open Educational Resources

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Krysta McNutt, Open Education Program Lead, Centre for Teaching and Learning; Michelle Braily, Digital Initiatives Projects Librarian, Libraries – Information Resources

Discussion:
The Chair reminded members that a number of questions about open educational resources arose during the discussion on zero/low cost text books at the last meeting; this presentation was to address these questions.

The presenters spoke about key understandings, how communities interact, education resources as one component of the open knowledge model that works together with the other components: creation, heritage, legal/governance/evaluation/business/technology, and research. They noted that questions frequently asked were:
- does open mean free – open means the permissions to freely download, edit and share materials to better serve all students;
- are all OER are digital – OER take many formats, including print, digital, audio, and more;
- is OER used on my campus – there are currently programs in use on our campus.

Members discussed: copyright and licensing, modifying content, resources available, support from students, assessing content quality, recognition for faculty, co-creation of material with students, quality, where is content housed and maintained, barriers for sessional instructors to develop or restructure materials.

7. Draft Teaching Policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Sarah Forgie, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair Committee on the Learning Environment

Discussion:
The Chair noted that this policy was the first part of updating GFC Policy Section 111: Teaching Learning and Teaching Evaluation and moving it into UAPPOL. She noted that this draft had been discussed at the GFC Executive Committee as an early consultation item and that the revised draft from this CLE meeting would go to GFC on March 18 for early consultation.

Members discussed: graduate attributes, terminology related to researcher teacher / teacher scholar, ensuring that wording was inclusive of all instructors, how the document would inform what we do, inclusive language, and knowledge keepers.

8.   Draft Teaching Evaluation Policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Sarah Forgie, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair Committee on the Learning Environment

Discussion:
Members discussed: use of 'teacher' or 'instructor', the use of summative evaluation in tenure and promotion, purposes of summative and formative methods, and how to encourage innovative teaching. The chair encouraged members to contribute further to the documents through the google doc.

9.   Updates

A. Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) – Dr Miller-Young updated the committee on CTL's self-study and planning for next year, new professor orientation in August and associated workshops and drop in sessions.

B. Information Technology - Mr Rawlings updated the committee on two current surveys being conducted at the university: eClassLive to gauge how it is being used and satisfaction with the tool; and the Educause faculty survey to learn more about instructor's use of technology. He noted that a student Educause survey was conducted in 2018. He noted that Educause allows results to be compared with other institutions.

C. Learning Services – Dr Askey indicated that Michele Braily who had been hired on as a sessional was now at the Libraries full time.

D. General Faculties Council – Ms Brolley reported that GFC met on February 25 and approved revised terms of reference for the Executive Committee and the Council on Student Affairs. She also noted that GFC recommended the new employees' code of conduct to the Board of Governors for approval.

E. Student Success Centre – No report.

10.   Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

11.   Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.