



General Faculties Council  
Committee on the Learning Environment  
Minutes

Thursday, April 07, 2011  
3-15, UHALL  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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**ATTENDEES:**

Colleen Skidmore (Co-Chair), Renée Elio (delegate), James Eastham, Andrea Rawluk (delegate), Ernie Ingles, Scott Delinger (delegate), Heather Kanuka, Ada Schmude (delegate), Karim Damji, John Boeglin, Katy Campbell, Anne McIntosh, Tiffany Seymour, Elaine Chow, Lili Liu, Fern Snart, Bob Luth, Nathalie Kermoal, Frank Nargang, Marlene Lewis (Coordinator & Scribe)

**PRESENTERS AND GUESTS:**

John Boeglin, Elected Academic Member of GFC CLE  
Scott Delinger, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Technology) Ex officio Delegate on GFC CLE  
Renée Elio, Associate Vice-President (Research) and Ex officio Member of GFC CLE  
Heather Kanuka, Academic Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning and Ex officio Member of GFC CLE  
Nathalie Kermoal, Faculty of Native Studies and GFC CLE Member Cross-Appointed from the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)  
Bob Luth, Professor, Faculty of Science and GFC CLE Member Cross-Appointed from the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and Provost's Fellow, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)  
Frank Nargang, Faculty of Science and GFC CLE Member Cross-Appointed from the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC)  
Ada Schmude, Vice-Provost and University Registrar Ex officio Delegate on GFC CLE  
Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Co-Chair, GFC CLE  
Frank Robinson, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: McIntosh/Boeglin

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of March 3, 2011

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Boeglin/Chow

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) approve the Minutes of March 3, 2011.

**CARRIED**

Review of the Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council Notes of February 14, 2011 (for information only)

February 14, 2011 notes were received.

3. Comments from the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chair commented on a number of items of interest to members, including: thanking members whose terms are ending, welcoming new student members, update on the Access Copyright Tariff and compliance, President's Town Hall scheduled for April 19, 2011 at 12:30 pm in the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies (CCIS), switching all U of A student accounts that use central email over to Gmail.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

4. Assessment and Grading Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Bob Luth, Professor, Faculty of Science and GFC CLE Member Cross-Appointed from the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and Provost's Fellow, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

Dr Luth presented the draft University of Alberta Policies and Procedures On-Line (UAPPOL) Assessment policy and acknowledged the work of the subcommittee in preparing the document. Members agreed to send the document forward to the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC).

There was no discussion.

5. Undergraduate Research Initiative/Memorial's 'Yaffle' Platform (<http://www.yaffle.ca>)

There were no documents.

*Presenters:* Renée Elio, Associate Vice-President (Research) and Ex officio Member of GFC CLE; Frank Robinson, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

Vice-President Elio Vice-Provost Robinson presented the item noting that a 'Yaffle' website was set up by Memorial University as a tool to initiate teaching and research at an institutional level. The presenters noted that exploring the possibility of adopting 'Yaffle' at the University of Alberta aligns with the University's Academic Plan commitment to a research culture engaging students. 'Yaffle' is a user-driven community that connects the innovators of Newfoundland and Labrador with the knowledge and expertise of Memorial University. It offers space for posting Memorial's projects, locating a supervisor and linking to local partners engaged in similar research.

During the ensuing discussion the presenters addressed questions and concerns on the following matters:

the value-added to the University of Alberta if 'Yaffle' is adopted which includes higher institutional profile, promotion of cross-unit opportunities, potential for funding, increase in student engagement, opportunity for increased support by Student Services and the Office of the Dean of Students, using current technology at no cost to the University of Alberta, potential for enhancing a student's co-curriculum vitae.

6. Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council Mentoring Subcommittee

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Heather Kanuka, Academic Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning and Ex officio Member of GFC CLE

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

Professor Kanuka provided an update on the status of the subcommittee saying that presently, the subcommittee is gathering data and exploring University practices. The subcommittee is speaking to faculty members who are recent hires, administrators who are mentors and specific faculty mentors identified as such.

During the ensuing discussion the presenter addressed questions and concerns on the following matters: the need for consistency across campus, guidelines for units to refer to, including units without mentoring programs into the initiative, exploring the mentoring needs of mid-career faculty, and a goal of the subcommittee being to develop recommendations. The subcommittee expects to return to TLAT in the Fall with an update

7. Proposed CLE or Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council Fostering Pedagogy of Technology Subcommittee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* John Boeglin, Elected Academic Member of GFC CLE; Frank Nargang, Faculty of Science and GFC CLE Member Cross-Appointed from the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC); a Schmude, Vice-Provost and University Registrar Ex officio Delegate on GFC CLE

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

Professor Boeglin presented the item noting that the subcommittee felt there was much work to be done in this area but wanted to avoid redundancy from work done for previous reports.

During the ensuing discussion the presenters addressed questions and concerns on the following matters: how Moodle technology would benefit distance-delivered courses and the gap between students' knowledge of technology and that of instructors..

A small core working group of the following members was identified to work on a purpose and terms of reference for this pursuit, with John Boeglin agreeing to transition the committee: Jose da Costa, Scott Delinger, John Boeglin, Anne McIntosh and Nathalie Kermaal.

Members agreed that the working group would return to both TLAT and GFC CLE in Fall, 2011.

8. Proposed CLE Subcommittee on Academic Plan 'Attributes and Competencies'

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Co-Chair, GFC CLE

*Purpose of the Proposal:* Discussion on a proposed CLE subcommittee on "attributes and competencies" in the Academic Plan

*Discussion:*

The Co-Chair of GFC CLE presented the item with the following comments: that one of CLE's mandate is to "assist in implementation of the Academic Plan," that the establishment of this subcommittee has the support of the two Vice-Presidents sponsors of the Academic Plan, Carl Amrhein and Lorne Babiuk.

A working group of the following members was identified to engage the topic in the ensuing months and to return to both TLAT and GFC CLE in Fall, 2011 to outline next steps: Emerson Csorba (incoming Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union), representative from the Graduate Students' Association, representative from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), representative from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Vice-Provost (Academic), Neil Haave (TLAT member), Fern Snart (CLE member) and Steven Dew (TLAT member).

9. Proposed CLE Subcommittee on Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) (Section 111.3 of the GFC Policy Manual)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Co-Chair, GFC CLE

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

The Co-Chair of GFC CLE presented the item providing a brief history of access to USRI's using CCID numbers.

During the ensuing discussion, the following comments were made: that USRI's have been on-line since 1998 and one question is whether scores from such an early date are useful to have posted, identifying current users and potential users of USRI scores and how the scores are used will aid in directing next steps The Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) has asked that in the short term, Section 111.3 (H) be reviewed by CLE and that in the long term, all of Section 111.8 be reviewed. Section 111.3 (H) reads: "Parties having access to numerical summaries of the ten Universal Student Ratings of Instruction questions and student comments shall be the instructor the Chair, Director or Dean; members of Tenure Committees; and members of Faculty Evaluation Committees."

A working group of the following members was identified to review Section 111.3 (H) in the ensuing months and to return to CLE in Fall, 2011: Colleen Skidmore, Rachael Milner, Fern Snart, Lili Liu, Kathleen Brough, Paula Martenette, Augustana Faculty.

**STANDING ITEMS**

10. GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Bob Luth, Professor, Faculty of Science and GFC CLE Member Cross-Appointed from the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and Provost's Fellow, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

Dr Luth provided a brief report regarding the meeting of GFC APC held on March 9, 2011 and noted that the major items considered were a Unit Review Report for the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and an update on the institution's Academic Plan.

#### 11. GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair of the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

Vice-Provost Skidmore provided a brief report regarding the meeting of GFC ASC held on March 17, 2011 and noted that the major item considered was the Faculté Saint-Jean and the Business Administration Diploma Program for Collège Saint- Jean.

#### 12. GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC) Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Frank Nargang, Faculty of Science and GFC CLE Member Cross-Appointed from the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

Dr Nargang provided a brief report regarding the meeting of GFC FDC held on March 24, 2011 noting that the major items considered were the Schematic Design Report for the Physical Activity and Wellness Centre (PAW), re-development of the Dentistry/Pharmacy building and the Design Development Report for the Camrose Performing Arts Centre.

#### 13. Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council Update

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Scott Delinger, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Technology) Ex officio Delegate on GFC CLE

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

Dr Delinger provided a brief report regarding the status of the University's Google initiative, noting that approximately 32,000 to date have begun to utilize the education edition of Google Apps.

14. Question Period

The Chair reported that the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC) Subcommittee on Learning Spaces is reviewing optimal learning spaces on campus and asked that this item be added to an upcoming GFC CLE Agenda for discussion.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

15. Items Approved by the Committee by E-Mail Ballots (non-debatable)

No items to date.

16. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

University of Alberta Policies and Procedures On-Line (UAPPOL) Encryption Procedure and Encryption Procedure Appendix A (sent by e-mail on March 31, 2011)

**CLOSING SESSION**

17. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm.