



General Faculties Council
Committee on the Learning Environment
Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, November 30, 2016
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Sarah Forgie	Chair (Delegate), Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Marina Banister	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Janice Causgrove Dunn	Member, Associate Dean or Associate Chair, Teaching and Learning (or equivalent)
Shannon Erichsen	Member, Support staff representative, elected by GFC
Firouz Khodayari	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Eva Lemaire	Member, Academic Staff
Brian Maraj	Member, Major Teaching Award Recipient
Janice Miller-Young	Member, Academic Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning
Jeff Rawlings	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President of Information Technology
Quinten Starko	Member, Undergraduate Student at-Large
Mani Vaidyanathan	Member, Academic Staff
Stanley Varnhagen	Member, Academic Staff

Presenter(s):

Suzanne Kresta	Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Sarah Forgie	Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) and Chair, GFC CLE

Staff:

Andrea Patrick, Acting Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Maraj/Erichsen

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

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 2, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Miller-Young/Varnhagen

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Minutes of November 2, 2016.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair invited members to introduce themselves.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Suzanne Kresta

Discussion:

Dr Kresta provided members with a summary of the changes to the Graduate Teaching and Learning Program and described the two new levels, pedagogy and research. She reported that this program aims to provide students with a strong foundation in teaching and learning.

During the discussion, Dr Kresta confirmed that none of the levels are required and that this is free of charge for all full-time graduate students and post-doctoral students. She reported that there has been positive feedback from previous students who have gone on to secure successful academic positions.

Members discussed supervisors, intellectual property, the participation of Master's and PhD students and whether the research component would apply to all programs.

The Chair thanked Dr Kresta for her presentation and indicated that she would invite her back for a follow-up report.

5. USRIs

There were no documents.

Discussion:

The Chair summarized recent activities related to this project, including ethics approval for the survey.

6. Overview of Provost's Teaching Awards

There were no documents.

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:

The Chair reported on the various institutional teaching awards currently available at the University of Alberta, including the history of the endowment which funds the awards. She emphasized that these awards recognize excellent teaching at the academy. Specifically, she highlighted some of the Provostial awards, including the McCalla, the Vargo Teaching Chair, the Distinguished University Professor, the University Cup, the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, the Centennial Professorship, and the Henry Marshall Tory Chair.

Members engaged in a lengthy discussion including, but not limited to: the time required to put an application together; the use of letters of intent as part of the application process; an award for graduate faculty members early in their career; that the community does not know about these awards; challenges staff face in allocating

appropriate time to these projects; whether certain Faculties apply and/or win more of these awards; that there are Faculty members already completing award-worthy projects who do not come forward for nomination.

The Chair reported to members that there will be mini-TLEF grants available this year and that additional information will be provided at a later time.

7. Question Period

A member sought clarification about the process of identifying academy-wide Signature Areas as part of *For the Public Good* and whether teaching would be included.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

10. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting 3:05 p.m.