



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

Wednesday, December 06, 2017
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Sarah Forgie, Chair
Janice Causgrove Dunn
Kathleen DeLong
Robert Desjardins
Yuuki Ito
Firouz Khodayari
Eva Lemaire
Janice Miller-Young

Adam Giraldeau (delegate)
Norma Rodenburg
Shane Scott
Jennifer Tupper
Mani Vaidyanathan
Stanley Varnhagen

REGRETS:

Samer Adeeb
Andrews Tawiah
Janet Wesselius

STAFF:

Meg Brolley

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Scott/Tupper

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

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 1, 2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: DeLong/Khodayari

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Minutes of November 1, 2017.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

The Chair reported on the November 14 keynote presentation by Harvey Weingarten, President and CEO of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO), on learning outcomes in research-intensive universities; she noted that Dr Weingarten's presentation is available on the CTL website.

She further noted that further consideration of the Student Group Policy Suite by the committee would be deferred to the new year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. University of Alberta Museums Annual Report for the Period: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Presenter(s): Janine Andrews, Executive Director, Museums and Collections Services; Jocelyn Hall, Chair, University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee.

Ms Andrews provided an overview of the report noting that collections are currently spread over 5 Faculties and 16 departments. She noted that the university holds one of the largest collections in the country and spoke to the standards required for these collections. Ms Andrews provided a couple of highlights of the report including the process by which things are brought in and removed from collections and the work being done on the return of human remains. Dr Hall spoke to the online availability of collections and the strategy to innovate online catalogue access.

Discussion:

The committee discussed access to the collections and it was noted that small group tours could be arranged. Ms Andrews noted that the collections are more research based than public facing. The committee also discussed how art work on public display is maintained/fixated, the access and awareness of what is available, moving collections and bringing people to collections, and the interdisciplinary work connections through curators.

In response to the Chair's question on how the committee could help, Ms Andrews indicated that Museums and Collections always needs ambassadors to promote the collections for teaching and research purposes, and the need for exhibition space, accessibility, and technical expertise.

5. Teaching Evaluation- GFC Policy 111: Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluation

Presenter(s): Sarah Forgie, Chair

The Chair provided an overview of how UAPPOL policy and procedures are structured. She asked the committee to consider what parts of the current GFC Policy 111 were essential, what is contained elsewhere, and what should more properly live in procedure.

Discussion:

The committee discussed the format of the current policy noting that it provided a narrative of the topic. There was further discussion on USRIs and the need for multifaceted evaluation. Other comments included clarifying the purpose of the tool for the university and for individual FECs, and how data is going to be used (by students, instructors, Chairs/Deans), the opportunity to revisit the mandatory questions, protecting the safety of instructors, access to evaluations, reflection of *For the Public Good* language. It was noted that the policy could include the need for multifaceted evaluation while the procedure could provide options on how to do this.

The Chair thanked the committee for their comments and noted that this will come back to the committee for further discussion once documents were drafted.

6. Experiential Learning (no documents)

Presenter(s): Sarah Forgie, Chair

Dr Forgie noted that this topic would be at GFC in February for early consultation. She noted that the GFC Executive Committee had provided the feedback that specific questions would be helpful to guide the discussion at GFC.

Discussion:

The committee provided the following feedback: are there key characteristics that should define experiential learning such as reflection; clarification of experience versus experiential learning; caution about defining it too soon or too prescriptively which could lead people to feel they are not included; possible alignment with the professional development requirement for graduate students; and, should there be a note on courses designating it as experiential learning.

7. Updates (no documents)

A. Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) - Dr Miller-Young noted that the call for the Open Education Resources (OER) Awards and Expressions of Interest for Blended Learning proposals was now on the CTL website. She also noted that the 2018 Festival of Teaching and Learning would be held on May 3

B. Information Technology - Mr Giraldeau reported on the proposal to expand access to Google classrooms. He also reported on the use of educause survey resources to replace the yearly IST survey which would also give a comparison of results with those of other institutions. He provided updates on directions and standards in classroom technology.

C. Learning Services – Dr DeLong noted the extended hours of libraries and spoke about their continued focus on safety. She invited members to share any suggestions or concerns.

D. General Faculties Council (GFC) - Ms Brolley reported that the November GFC meeting included a number of items resulting from the ad hoc committee recommendations on academic governance including: the Chair of the Board of Governors attending GFC, the joint GFC/Board/Senate summit to be held on January 26, 2018, discussion of the changes to the undergraduate Nursing curriculum forwarded from APC for discussion, and the decision of the GFC Academic Standards Committee to recommend a proposal to waive a program specific English language requirement to GFC rather than act with delegated authority.

8. Question Period

The committee asked about whether email reminders continue to be sent to students regarding USRIs and whether there was a policy on when major assignments were due.

INFORMATION REPORTS

9. Items Approved by the Committee by E-Mail Ballots (non-debatable) - No items to date

There were no items.

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings - No items to date

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.