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

Wednesday, December 01, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

John Nychka, Chair	Benjamin Cheung	*non-voting:*
Kathy Haddadkar	Bora Kim	Mike MacGregor
Abner Moneiro	Ashmeen Aneja	Tommy Mayberry
Ali Shiri	Angie Mandeville	Lara McClelland
Connie Winther	Hollis Lai	
Norma Rodenburg	Pierre Lemelin	**REGRETS:**
Mary Olukotun	Al Meldrum	Brad Hamdon
Christine Hughes	Shauna Wilton	Kate Peters
Gregory Thomas	Angela Bayduza	

Staff:
Heather Richholt, Coordinator
Edyta McLoughlin, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)

Discussion:
Before opening the meeting, the Chair made the following territorial acknowledgement:
The University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands and signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work.

Motion: Hughes/Shari

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

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 27, 2021

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair CLE

Motion: Lemelin/Hughes

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the open session minutes of October 27, 2021.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair CLE

Discussion:
The Chair noted that the Vice-Chair role was still open and encouraged anyone interested to reach out to him or to the Committee Coordinator.

The Chair also noted that the Steering Committee for the Festival of Teaching and Learning was seeking a member from CLE.

The Chair spoke about the student walkout from the November 29, 2021 General Faculties Council meeting and their rationale of raising awareness of sexual violence awareness and prevention. He expressed the need for action and reported on conversations happening to respond to these issues.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Updates

    A. Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

Presenter(s): Tommy Mayberry, Executive Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning

Discussion:
T Mayberry noted that the hiring process for the new Lead Education Developer, Assessment and Evaluation was going well and they were in the final stage of filling the position. They also noted that two additional leadership positions, one for the Indigenous Portfolio and one for the Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Portfolio, would be filled by January 2022. T Mayberry spoke about the Steering Committee for the Festival of Teaching and Learning, the need for a CLE representative, and updated terms of reference that the committee was working on.

    B. Facilities and Operations

Presenter(s): Lara McClelland, Associate Vice-President (Integrated Planning and Partnerships)

Discussion:
Ms McClelland provided an update on the key priories for space and facilities as shared at the last CLE meeting. She noted the work of the Facility Optimization Oversight Committee and the Facility Optimization Implementation team to inventory and understand the university's space, including its functional qualities. She noted that in working on gathering that data, a survey would be deployed with a goal to create a robust inventory of spaces across the institution to support discussions and decision-making around usage at the Department and Faculty-levels.

    C. Information Technology

Presenter(s): Mike MacGregor, Associate Vice-President and Chief Information Officer

Discussion:
Dr MacGregor shared that IST had run a few workshops on the new enterprise video platform YuJa for instructors with approximately 150 participants. He also noted that they had engaged a consultant to help develop an IT

Strategy for the University of Alberta to support the core missions of teaching, learning, and research, and that CLE would be consulted in the development.

Dr MacGregor spoke about the challenges involved with the provision of wireless for the purposes of assessment of hundreds of individuals in large testing spaces on campus and requested feedback from members. He noted that IST had received an increase in requests for such wireless services in spaces such as the Butterdome and the Education gym but that the costs were prohibitive.

Members discussed:
- current practices for examinations in high schools, testing skills, and expectations for consistency at the post-secondary level;
- the expectation for students to bring their own device and technology requirements for some programs;
- assessment practices as related to growth strategy;
- online programs and remote access; and
- the challenge to provide loaned devices for students who do not own one.

D. Library and Museums

Presenter(s): Connie Winther, Head, Faculty Engagement (Health Sciences), Library and Museums

There was no update.

E. General Faculties Council

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager, GFC Services

Discussion:
Ms Peters made note of:
- The adjournment of the November 29 GFC meeting to December 6, 2021 due to the student walk-out and protest;
- Items on the December 6 GFC agenda including:
  o Residence Community Standards Policy Suite;
  o Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation Policy;
  o Final Report on the Academic Leaders Task Group;
  o Notice of Motion from a GFC member to create a new standing committee of GFC in place of the current GFC Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight; and
- The CLE Terms of Reference would be due for a 3-year review in November 2022.

5. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair, CLE

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to provide a progress update, share the draft policy suite, and continue discussions related to the advancement of the Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation Policy for the University of Alberta.

Discussion:
The Chair began by thanking CLE for their continued engagement throughout the important initiative and then provided an overview of the updates on the draft Policy and Procedure. He shared live google document versions of the drafts with members and asked for their input during the meeting as well as after the meeting, noting a

deadline to provide feedback by December 10, 2021. The Chair also provided a high-level overview of the changes to the Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) Survey since the first draft. He explained the aim to mitigate bias and measurement error, and intentional use of decolonizing language.

During the discussion, members asked questions and expressed opinions including but not limited to:
- Whether mandatory class time to fill out the surveys made a difference in response rates;
- Concern with survey fatigue;
- Whether surveys should be mandatory or highly recommended;
- The best timing for the surveys;
- The release and availability of data to students to aid them in selecting courses;
- How clinical teaching and preceptoring would be considered; and
- The potential for an appendix on clinical instruction.

6. Student Communication on Experiential Learning

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Provost Fellow, Experiential and Work-Integrated Learning; Abner Monteiro, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee for early consultation on communication with students who face negative expiences over the course of their experiential learning placements.

Discussion:
Dr Mündel and Mr Monteiro noted that as the University aims to meet experiential learning goals required by the Alberta government's Investment Management Agreement, increasing numbers of students would be participating in experiential learning and a portion would experience negative experiences. Students who face negative experiences in experiential learning placements faced complex, varied, time-consuming, and often exhausting appeal and complaints mechanisms.

Mr Monteiro noted that many students were hesitant to come forward because they did not want to risk their career options. He noted that it was vital for the University to develop clear resources to support students who must navigate concerns, and to provide instructors and experiential learning supervisors clear support guidelines. He noted that this might include the creation of flow charts and other student and instructor-facing documents.

Dr Mündel explained that they were working to understand universal as well as discipline-specific issues and the goal to make information consistent and available for students so that they were not required to search for it.

During the discussion, members asked questions and expressed opinions including but not limited to:
- The example of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's Professionalism button;
- The potential for the use of chat bots;
- Strategies for awareness building such as a pre-practicum course or session; and
- Engaging with the Departments and Faculties who support placements to learn from their experiences and current processes.

7. Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan (IISP)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee for early consultation on the current draft of the IISP and to solicit feedback.

Discussion:
Dr Glanfield shared that in support of the objectives articulated in the institutional strategic plan For the Public Good (FPG) and in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Programming and Research's Office (VPIPRO) had been tasked with the consultation, development and approval of an Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan (IISP). She provided the committee with a high-level, strategic mapping of the thematic groupings, goals and strategies for the proposed five-year IISP.

The Chair thanked Dr Glanfield, Nella Sajlovic, and the Indigenous Advisory Council for all their work on the IISP.

The discussion touched on the following points:
- The symbolism of the braid combining the past, the present, and the possible;
- CLE's role and mandate related to the IISP;
- The importance of challenging the status quo and the learning that can happen out of discomfort; and
- An acknowledgement of the work of the VPIPRO team to support the development of graduate ethics and supervisory training.

8. Question Period

A committee member shared a question that he had received from a student about access to course quizzes for preparation of exams. The Chair suggested the Associate Chair or Associate Dean responsible be contacted.

INFORMATION REPORTS
Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

- University of Alberta Mail - CLE Follow Up _ Document Links & Instructor Town Hall Information
- University of Alberta Mail - Communication to CLE members re SPOT feedback

CLOSING SESSION

10. Adjournment
     - Next meeting of CLE: January 26, 2022
     - Next meeting of GFC: January 31, 2022

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.