



General Faculties Council
Committee of Learning Environment (CLE)
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, November 30, 2022
2-31 SAB 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Karsten Mundel (Chair)
Hollis Lai (Vice-Chair)
Bishoi Aziz
Benjamin Cheung
Zachary Friggstad
Jana Grekul
Gurleen Kaur
Angie Mandeville
Andrea Macleod (delegate, FGSR)

Jesse Luyendyk
Christian Reyns-Chikuma
Gregory Thomas
Patrick von Hauff
Shauna Wilton
Connie Winther
Rachel Yang
non-voting:
Tommy Mayberry
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Angela Bayduza
Simran Kaur Dhillon
Christine Hughes
Mike Macgregor
Lara McClelland

Staff:

Faiza Billo, Governance Systems
Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

The Chair began by acknowledging the territory:

That the University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Acting Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), and Chair of CLE

The motion was moved and seconded.

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

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 26, 2022

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Acting Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair CLE

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the open session minutes of October 26, 2022.

CARRIED

23. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Acting Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair CLE

Discussion: The Chair provided updates on the processes to develop the University Strategic Plan and on the College Review. Members were encouraged to support the Campus Food Bank which is experiencing increased demands.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Indigenizing Curricula and Pedagogies - Moving in Truth Towards Reconciliation

Presenter(s): Andrea Menard, Lead Educational Developer, Indigenizing Curricula and Pedagogies, Centre for Teaching and Learning & Office of the Vice Provost, Indigenous Programming and Research; Norma Dunning, Faculty of Education

Discussion:

The Chair reminded members that the Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP) Braiding Past, Present and Future was approved at the June meeting of GFC and the Board. The Plan sets out goals for the University and will inform the work of CLE. He introduced the presenters Andrea Menard and Norma Dunning.

N Dunning described the method in Indigenous traditional customs by which individuals present themselves to others - this is done in relation with family, land and history. She shared about her journey in Academia and the challenges presented by racist tenets embedded in formalized teaching and learning environments. She described examples of resistance to rethinking colonial foundations, assumptions and structures. To present the committee with some of the experiences she encountered while teaching EDU 211 - Aboriginal Education and Contexts (a course to prepare teachers for working with Indigenous students), she read her poem reflecting on these challenges titled, "Non-Indigenous Intergenerational Ignorance".

The Presenters noted the importance of CLE in thinking through how to make room for Indigenous voices, knowledges, perspectives, and histories; while keeping in mind that the responsibility for reconciliation is individual as well as collective. They spoke to the value of seeking out and looking to understand legal, social, cultural and political conditions that create inequitable conditions for Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Members shared their gratitude to the presenters for the opportunity to discuss these issues as a committee. Committee members reviewed how policy and laws can enact oppression, and shared experiences of oppression from their personal backgrounds. Members reviewed the dangers of being uninformed and the importance of recognising privilege. They discussed avenues for integrating Truth and Reconciliation work into their daily lives, and into teaching, learning and service.

Members asked how this committee could support the University in finding concrete and tangible solutions that may have a broader impact. Presenters noted risks in placing responsibility on Indigenous colleagues and encouraged members to build relationships with Indigenous colleagues, students and staff. Members discussed several concrete possibilities in relation to CLE's mandate including, critically assessing use of *Robert's Rules* in governance - noting that the colonial structure of meetings can be a barrier to conversations relating to Reconciliation. The committee discussed how mandatory course requirements for integrating content to support Reconciliation would be received by faculty, staff and students. Members agreed that discussion of the university's responsibilities with regard to Indigenizing Curriculum and Pedagogies and to *Braiding Past, Present and Future the Indigenous Strategic Plan* should be a standing item on CLE agendas. Members committed to determining and communicating to GFC concrete actions or recommendations by the end of the academic year. Members also agreed to start each meeting with an introduction that incorporated Indigenous ways of situating themselves through connections to family and place to help the committee learn more about themselves and each other.



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5. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Policy Revised Appendix A: Student Perspectives of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Acting Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair CLE

Discussion: The Chair provided a short introduction to the item noting that the Committee had previously recommended this proposal. He reminded members that the SPOT questions currently in use employ language that was set out in the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) policy that has not been revised since the 1990s. The Chair explained questions are currently being revised by the Centre for Research in Applied Measurement and Evaluation (CRAME). The questions are being piloted and validated with consideration of the diversity of courses they will be used in. Committee members were reminded that the project had anticipated several different appendices to be used in different types of courses. The committee was asked to consider what they needed to feel confident in endorsing the draft questions set out in the Appendix.

Committee members requested that the final report from CRAME be distributed to the Committee and questioned whether there would be any comparisons to the former questions. Members asked whether the questions would be appropriate for evaluating teaching in clinical environments, and whether this ongoing concern from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry would be addressed by the report and in the questions.

Members heard that a special session of CLE was being called for Feb 8, 2023 and that at that meeting, members would be asked to recommend approval of the revised Appendix A (SPOT Survey) to GFC.

6. Report of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Review of Teaching Awards Working Group

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Acting Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair CLE

Discussion: The Chair provided background information on the development of the report and the recommendations. He presented plans for a soft relaunch of teaching awards in the next year and the need to integrate recommendations from the report into the process. The Chair noted that CLE has responsibility over fostering teaching excellence and asked members for advice on implementing the recommendations in the report to relaunch faculty excellence and teaching awards.

Committee members encouraged the proponents to resume the awards for teaching excellence and expressed that this should be a priority for the University. The need to recognise, celebrate, and reward teaching excellence was emphasized.

The committee asked to continue to be informed on the progress implementing the report recommendations.

7. Updates

A. Centre for Teaching and Learning

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

Discussion: T Mayberry noted that there would be some updates in the next newsletter

D. Library and Museums



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Presenter(s): Connie Winthers, Head, Faculty Engagement, University of Alberta Libraries

Discussion: C Winthers noted the information on the [Geoffrey and Robyn Sperber Health Sciences Library](#) is now available on the Libraries website. The site provides an overview of the new library, renderings of the design, and frequently asked questions. This page is also linked to from the Locations – Scott Health Sciences Library page. Content will continue to be updated as we progress toward the opening of the new library in the fall of 2023. She shared that the University of Alberta's [Opening Up Copyright \(OUC\)](#) instructional modules are now available. There are five modules::

- [Copyright in the K-12 Context](#)
- [Creating and Sharing Copyright Protected Materials in the K-12 Context](#)
- [Introduction to Copyright](#)
- [Working With Copyright](#)
- [Opening Up Copyright: An Introduction](#)

10. Question Period

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Acting Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair CLE

Discussion: Members asked about the communication on SPOT survey and the implementation of the new questions. Members shared that there has been frustration in the community because of the time it has taken to implement the new questions. It was suggested that there needed to be a University-wide communication plan for implementing new questions. The Chair responded that GFC will be discussing the new questions in upcoming meetings. Members were encouraged to communicate any ideas they have about venues for communicating information.

INFORMATION REPORTS

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

- A. Report of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Review of Teaching Awards Working Group
- B. Special Session CLE - Save the Date - Calendar Invitation for Feb 8/23 sent Dec 6/23

CLOSING SESSION

12. Adjournment

- Next meeting of CLE: January 25, 2023
- Special Session CLE: February 8, 2023
- Next meeting of GFC: January 30, 2023