



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

Wednesday, October 03, 2018
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Sarah Forgie
Fahed Elian (delegate)
Dale Askey
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Robert Desjardins
Brian Maraj
Janice Miller-Young
Jeff Rawlings

Norma Rodenburg
Mani Vaidyanathan
Stanley Varnhagen
Janet Wesselius
Kevin Zentner

REGRETS:
Janice Causgrove Dunn

Eva Lemaire
Jennifer Tupper

Staff:
Meg Brolley, Committee
Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Maraj/Miller-Young

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

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 5, 2018

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Desjardins/Bhatnagar

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Open Session Minutes of September 5, 2018.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

The chair mentioned a number of vacancies on the committee and encouraged members to invite colleagues to apply.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Draft Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy

Purpose: Information/Discussion. The university has provided feedback to the Tri-agencies with regards to their draft Tri-Agency research Data Management Policy posted here:

http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97610.html

Presenter(s): Geoff Harder

Dr Harder provided an overview of the documents and the consultation process to date.

Discussion:

Members provided comments on the following: scope and participation rate on the electronic survey; resource implications related to data management; questions on what data would be included; need for institutional data management strategy; open access; digital identifier to cite data; how access differed to what was currently available to the university community; the societal benefit of access to information; responsibility to provide data associated with tri-agency funding; ethics implications to secondary use of data; challenges related to intermingling of grants between researchers internationally; compliance challenges; definition of data that is appropriate across disciplines; methods of sharing data; where data is stored; data literacy and data training; and administrative burden.

5. Update on Teaching Evaluation Policy (no documents)

Presenter(s): Sarah Forgie

The Chair reminded members of the direction from GFC for the committee to review GFC Policy 111. She proposed a policy/procedure structure to incorporate the institutional commitment to teaching in a research intensive institution and the contract between teacher and student. She then spoke to teaching evaluation and procedural documents which would include multi-faceted evaluations, student evaluations, and noted the uniqueness of evaluation needs related to graduate students. The Chair referred to the work conducted by CTL and discussed by CLE over the last year, and the offer from St Joseph's College to pilot some evaluation processes.

Discussion:

The committee discussed how to approach these components sequentially. Members provided comments on: how to raise the profile of teaching in the academy; the need to provide mechanisms for multi-faceted evaluations as well as the challenges involved; the need to change the culture of teaching evaluation; and evaluation of the graduate student supervisory role. Members noted the value of formative evaluation and the value of ongoing evaluation. Less dependence on USRIs was discussed. The need for buy in from community was emphasized. The committee discussed how to leverage peer evaluation in a positive and perhaps confidential manner and how to be sensitive to differences in individuals on how they wish to be evaluated in a manner most effective for them. Members commented on how students perceive the usefulness of USRIs; how to provide instructors with a safe space to be innovative; the fear of power imbalance in small graduate situations; and how to socialize and normalize feedback to instructors to allow them to integrate feedback into second half of course so students benefit from their feedback during the course.

6. Election of Vice-Chair for 2018/19

Brian Maraj was acclaimed Vice-Chair for 2018-2019.

7. Updates

A. Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) - Dr Miller-Young noted upcoming deadlines for grants at CTL including blended learning awards, TLEF, and OER awards. She indicated that the TLEF seed grants are designed to foster a culture of innovation.

B. Information Technology - Mr Rawlings provided updates on eClass, the moodle app for students, new polling software, classroom renewal, and the development of digital exams on student computers.

C. Learning Services - Dr Askey reported on Science literacy week. He noted the merger of Canadiana, an alliance of libraries, archives, and universities across the country dedicated to making Canada's cultural heritage available online, with the Canadian Research Knowledge Network. He indicated that this was a transformational moment that would provide additional accessible digital content.

D. General Faculties Council – There was no report.

E. Academic Success Centre – There was no report.

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

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

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.