



**1. Mandate and Role of the Committee**

The Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) is a standing committee of GFC charged with advising GFC on policy directions that promote excellence in teaching and learning institutionally. CLE serves as GFC's primary advisory group on teaching and learning, including such aspects as learning environments, assessment and evaluation, teaching innovations, teaching resources and support, and students' educational experience.

**2. Areas of Responsibility**

- a. Physical and virtual learning and teaching environment
- b. Teaching and learning policy
- c. Institutional policy on the assessment of teaching
- d. Institutional policy on the evaluation of student learning
- e. Vision and strategy for learning spaces and learning technologies
- f. Fostering excellence in the scholarship and practice of teaching and learning

**3. Composition**

**Voting Members (19)**

***Ex-officio (6)***

- Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Chair
- Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
- Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
- Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian
- Vice-Provost and University Registrar
- Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

***Appointed (1)***

- 1 academic staff (A1.0) who holds a major teaching award (internal or external award, eg Rutherford, Vargo Chair, 3M, etc.), appointed by the Chair in consultation with the Chair of Nominating Committee

***Elected by GFC (12)***

- 4 academic staff (A1.0) from GFC – one of whom will be elected by the committee to serve as Vice Chair
- 1 non-academic staff at-large (S1.0, S2.0)
- 1 librarian from GFC
- 1 undergraduate student from GFC
- 1 graduate student from GFC
- 1 Chair
- 1 Dean
- 1 Associate Dean or Associate Chair, Teaching and Learning (or equivalent)
- 1 academic teaching staff (A2.1, A2.2) at-large

**Non-voting Members**

- Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Technology)
- Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning
- Director, Space Management, Facilities and Operations
- University Secretary
- GFC Secretary

**4. Delegated Authority from General Faculties Council**

*Should be reviewed at least every three years and reported to GFC.*

- 4.1 Approve revisions to teaching assessment and evaluation procedures
- 4.2 Approve proposals related to teaching and learning that emerge from central administrative units and determine whether to forward to GFC for discussion or information
- 4.3 Receive and discuss reports on student engagement and the student educational experience and determine whether to forward to GFC for discussion or information

**5. Responsibilities Additional to Delegated Authority**

- 5.1 Review and recommend to GFC on policies related to teaching and learning
- 5.2 Review and recommend to GFC on policies related to assessment of teaching
- 5.3 Review and provide feedback on learning technologies
- 5.4 Receive, discuss and provide feedback on new and revised learning spaces, formal and informal, that impact instructor and student educational experiences
- 5.5 Advise on the vision and strategy for learning spaces and learning technologies
- 5.6 Receive, discuss and provide feedback on new and innovative teaching pedagogy and delivery initiatives
- 5.7 Review and recommend to GFC on policy and regulations related to student evaluation that apply to a substantial group of students
- 5.8 Make recommendations to GFC on student engagement, student educational experience, and support for teaching
- 5.9 Members may be asked to serve on adjudication bodies related to awards within the CLE mandate

**6. Sub-delegations from the Committee on the Learning Environment**

*Should be reviewed at least every three years and reported to GFC.*

None.

**7. Limitations to Authority**

The following further refines or places limitations on authorities held by or delegated to CLE:

**8. Reporting to GFC**

The Committee should regularly report to GFC with respect to its activities and decisions.

**9. Definitions**

Substantial Group of Students – any one (or more) of the following three classes of students: (a) undergraduate students, (b) doctoral level students, and/or (c) graduate students pursuing studies other than those at doctoral level

Academic staff – as defined by the [Recruitment Policy \(Appendix A\) Definition and Categories of Academic Staff, Administrators and Colleagues](#) in UAPPOL

Non-Academic staff – as defined by the [Recruitment Policy \(Appendix B\) Definition and Categories of Support Staff](#) in UAPPOL

**10. Links**

Teaching Policy  
Teaching Assessment and Evaluation Policy and Procedures  
[Assessment and Grading Policy and Procedures](#)  
[Academic Regulations](#) – University of Alberta Calendar

[Examination Regulations](#)  
[Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading](#)  
[Centre for Teaching and Learning](#)  
[Office of the Student Ombuds](#)

Approved by General Faculties Council: November 25, 2019