SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
11 January 2023
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
via Zoom

Attendees

Senators
Dr. Francis Andrew Dr. Simon Bates Dr. Julian Dierkes
Dr. Joanne Fox (Chair) Dr. Maura MacPhee Dr. Ingrid Price
Dr. HsingChi von Bergmann Karen Smith Jorden Hendry
Dana Turdy Emmanuel Cantiller

Ex Officio
Dr. Kin Lo Dr. Christina Hendricks Dr. Ainsley Carry
Dr. Margret Moss Dr. Jan Hare

Regrets
Dr. Alison Greig Dr. Maya Krzic

Guests
Annie Yim Dr. Stephanie McKeown Dr. Abdel Azim Zumrawi

Office of the Senate
J. Cowen

Call to Order and Land
Acknowledgement
The meeting of the Teaching and Learning Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 2:02 pm on 11 January 2023 by Joanne Fox, Chair.

Agenda
THAT THE Senate Teaching and Learning Committee adopt the agenda as presented.

Adopted by General Consent

Minutes
THAT THE Senate Teaching and Learning Committee approve the 14 December 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

J. Fox
H. von Bergmann
Carried unanimously
Business Arising from the Minutes

For Approval

Decolonization Walking Tour
The group was scheduled to visit the indigenous garden in May but the visit was cancelled because only a few people could attend. The Chair canvassed the willingness of the committee to seek out such physical opportunities. There is a Decolonization Walking Tour curated by Belkin Gallery Public Programs and Exhibitions. The committee could go as a group or members could go individually and discuss their experiences at a meeting. The committee agreed a poll of availability would be useful and that it would prefer to do the tour in the spring when the weather is good.

Exam Policy
Presentation by Simon Bates
This item is coming to the committee for information, feedback and input. There is interest on both campuses to change and align the language and approach of the exam policies.

One key element in the Vancouver language is:

Unless the relevant Dean and Head for sound academic reasons, grants an exemption, all courses designed for first- and second-year students shall be examined in the formal examination period.

This can be interpreted in more than one way:

1. if there is an examination, it must be in the formal examination period
2. there must be an examination for first- and second-year courses and it must be in the examination period.

If it's number 2, there is a question as to whether this belongs in the policy which has the stated aims of providing for consistent, fair, and equitable treatment of candidates and to clarify the expectations with regard to scheduling of examinations around the formal examination period.

The committee’s discussion included: it seems this is generally interpreted as #2; whether it makes sense to require all first and second year courses to have exams; whether the policy is necessary; Okanagan website makes it clear it that it refers to December and April exam periods; why does the policy only focus on first and second year; a third interpretation could be it doesn't have to be a scheduled exam, could be a take-home in the exam; the Corollary is that 3rd and 4th year don't require exams; the policy also applies to midterm exams for full-year courses; the origin may be that the pedagogy in years 1 and 2 is more foundational; what is the policy trying to fix and who is the audience?; the policy
The goal is scheduling and the primary audience is faculty; pedagogical choice may not be relevant because there are alternative “examinations” happening; the exam schedule is very tight – not having an exam in even one course could considerably free up students’ schedules; one purpose is to prevent faculty from, for example, having pseudo-formal exams close to the exam period, then no formal exam in the exam period so the instructor gets a longer holiday; possible interplay between the exam policy and inclement weather policy.

The policy will be going to Learning & Research.

It was noted that Academic Policy is the responsible committee and also that the policy appears to be past its review date and it is unclear when it was last reviewed.

The Chair invited updates from the working group along the way.

**Other Business**

One of the things we committed to as a committee is giving members an opportunity to identify standing teaching or class conflicts and, for anyone who may systematically miss the meetings, to provide input in different ways. If anyone has class conflicts for this term please let us know.

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting is the joint meeting with Okanagan Learning and Research on Friday, February 10, 2023 from 11:15am – 12:45pm

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 pm.