



**SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday 8 November 2023 2:00-3:30 p.m. via Zoom

**Attendance:** Davey Li (Vice-Chair), Marina Adshade, Elisa Baniassad, Katherine Feng, Christina Hendricks, Mathew Ho, Andre Ivanov, Suzie Lavallee, Kin Lo, Catherine Rawn, Richard Spencer, HsingChi von Bergmann, Annie Yim

**Guests:** Stephanie McKeown

**Regrets:** Karen Smith (Chair), Ainsley Carry

**Senate Staff:** Michael Jud

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 2:01 p.m. on 11 October 2023 by D. Li, Vice-Chair.

**ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted by general consent.

**ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF LAST MEETING’S MINUTES**

The meeting minutes of 11 October 2023 were adopted by general consent subject to the following corrections:

- Add A. Ivanov to “Regrets” list.

**ITEM 3: SEI SURVEY – PROPOSED ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

The proposal was introduced by Dr. Christina Hendricks, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning, *pro tem*, and Stephanie McKeown, Chief Institutional Research Officer.

The proposal is to add the following to the SEI Survey as Question 7:

**Open-ended Instructor Question**

Question text:

*Please comment on what your instructor did well to support your learning.*

Committee members offered questions and comments on the following topics:

- Student response rates and related issues. Have faculty members been providing feedback on how they communicate or how students talk to them about SEI surveys? Do response rates vary from faculty to faculty? Does positioning of questions affect response rates?  
Response: It was stated in response that the staff at PAIR have been working on a report which provides analysis of these issues. It is expected that the report will be presented to Senate in the near future, so more information can be expected soon.
- Regarding the text of the proposed Question 7, it was suggested that the wording be amended for greater consistency with other questions, e.g. “comment on...” vs “identify...”, etc.  
Response: This issue has been flagged and will be addressed once the new question is approved in principle.
- Much was said about the issue of positive vs negative feedback. It was noted that the proposed Question 7 appears to be a good prompt for students to provide positive feedback regarding their instructors, something which is sometimes missing from SEI responses. It was also noted that many instructors frequently encounter very negative and even hateful comments in the responses, and that this can have a seriously negative impact on the wellbeing of those instructors. Committee members discussed the practicality of addressing this issue via:
  - A metaphorical “panic button” which allows instructors to reach out to an appropriate person to report extremely toxic, hateful or threatening comments in the survey responses.
  - Implementing software tools or manual processes to cull survey responses which engage in this type of negativity.
  - Including a prompt at the beginning of the survey which directs the mind of the respondent to their responsibility to conduct themselves in a respectful manner.
  - Partially de-anonymizing responses in some contexts (not to the instructor) so that someone can intervene in severe cases (e.g., where a student is engaging in targeted hateful commentary towards instructors belonging to specific demographic groups).
- It was asked how the survey data reflects incomplete survey responses. If a student submits a partially completed survey, does the system impute a value for questions which were not answered?  
Response: Imputing a value to unanswered questions would undermine the validity of the survey. Our current system does not have this behavior, it only accepts survey responses for which all questions are answered.

**Motion:** *That the Committee endorse the addition to the SEI Survey of the proposed new Question 7.*

**Carried.**

#### **ITEM 4: COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE: TOPICS OF INTEREST IN 2023-24**

Committee members suggested that the Committee consider addressing its work toward the following topics:

- Teaching and learning data retention schedules for artifacts such as teaching materials, course design, etc. Retention schedules are being formalized in Board policy and it was suggested that the Committee may take an interested in the issue.
- Use of technology in teaching and learning in support of improved efficiency, putting scarce time to better use, etc. An example was provided of language learning tools which rely on AI chatbot technology. One would hope UBC is at the leading edge of use of new technology, but

we don't seem to be fully engaged in this issue. It was suggested that the Committee look for opportunities to push UBC to become a leader in this realm.

- Experiential learning. How can faculty members be encouraged to promote opportunities for students to benefit from experiential learning opportunities in the broader community.
- Mental health and advocacy for staff, particularly in the context of Workday. We have an opportunity to advocate on behalf of students for greater staffing both in Senate Secretariat and in advising offices. Increasing workload pressures expected as a result of transition to Workday.
- Online grading tools, e.g. Crowdmark, Gradescope. U of T has license for crowdmark for example, which was developed by a UBC faculty member, but it has not been made available systematically at UBC. A meaningful discussion around bringing these tools into our classrooms.
- Undergraduate Research opportunities.
- Additional Co-op and Experiential Education Opportunities for International Students
- Graduate Supervision.
- Hybrid Education.
- Engagement with the ISP self-assessment tool. It was suggested that Committee members who have not already done so should consider completing the ISP's self-assessment exercise.

#### **ITEM 5: NEXT MEETING**

The Committee will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, from 2:00-3:30 PM via zoom.

#### **ITEM 6: FINALIZED 2024 MEETING DATES**

It was noted that the Committee's 2024 meeting dates have now been finalized as follows:

- Tuesday, January 9, 1pm-2:30pm
- Tuesday, February 13, 1pm-2:30pm
- Tuesday, March 12, 1pm-2:30pm
- Tuesday, April 9, 1pm-2:30pm
- Tuesday, May 7, 1pm-2:30pm

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.