



Minutes

47th meeting of the Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning (STL) of the Academic Policy Committee

Tuesday, 18 March 2014, 10:00am – 12:00pm

James Administration Building, room 301

Present: Jeremie Abitbol, James Archibald, Pete Barry (for Nicole Allard), Lawrence Chen, André Costopoulos, Ollivier Dyens (Chair), Jaye Ellis, Sara Laimon, Ronald Morris, John Silvius, Yvonne Steinert, Nancy St-Pierre (Secretary), Carole Urban, Laura Winer

Regrets: Nicole Allard, Haley Hatch-Dinel, Ian Henderson, Murray Humphries, Svetlana Komarova, Lucy Lach, Jana Luker, Sujata Madan, Laura Nilson, Sharon Roy

Guest: Colleen Cook, Trenholme Dean of Libraries

1. Administrative:

a) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

b) Approval of the minutes, 17 February 2014 (STL2014-03-13)

Pete Barry noted that his name was not listed among those present at the 17 February meeting. The Secretary would ensure that the list of participants is corrected.

The minutes of the meeting were approved as amended.

2. Action items:

a) Teaching awards

Revised guidelines: Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching (STL2014-02-11R)
Laura Winer, Interim Director, Teaching and Learning Services

Laura Winer reviewed the proposed revisions to the guidelines. The substantive changes being proposed were as follows:

- to explicitly state that although instructors may be nominated multiple times, they may be awarded the prize only once in each category;
- to establish the dossier length at 60 pages;
- section 6: to align the time period to that used in section 7;
- section 8 - *Evidence Based Inquiry*: added

Following the discussion with STL members, several additional revisions were proposed:

- section 6: *where appropriate, a narrative*, to be added;
- section 7: *report of peer assessment of teaching* to be added;
- section 8: *discussing ways in which your teaching is informed by research* to be added.
- inclusion of *Senior Faculty lecturers* when appropriate;

Once the text has been revised, the guidelines will be distributed by email for final STL approval.

Action: The revised guidelines received electronic approval by STL and were forwarded to APC for approval at its 3 April 2014 meeting.

Secretary's note: the revised guidelines were approved by APC at its meeting of 3 April with the following changes:

- *the award will recognize ~~researchers who are also~~ great teachers who also enhance their students' understanding of research;*
- *dossiers are expected to be no more than 25 pages exclusive of the nomination form, table of contents, curriculum vitae, and page dividers;*
- *A student should not write a letter for a professor who is supervising or teaching in the program in which he or she is currently enrolled;*
- *letters of support must have been written within the last three (3) years.*

Lawrence Chen suggested that guidelines/instructions on interpreting the information contained in the nomination packages be provided to members of the Adjudication Committee. Laura Winer noted that TLS does provide some guidance to the student representatives on the committee and that these guidelines could be updated and provided to all the members.

3. Discussion/Information:

a. Presentation on the Library of the 21st Century

Guest: Colleen Cook, Trenholme Dean of Libraries

Dean Cook addressed the members of STL on the strategic exercise the Library is currently engaged in. This exercise is intended to provide a roadmap to direct the efforts and activities over the coming years. Amongst the priorities identified to-date were:

- grow the library as a user-centered organization that recognizes users as the primary motivator;
- develop systematic methods of consulting users on an on-going basis;
- value user-centered focus by all Library staff;
- conduct a feasibility study beginning with the McLennan Library Building. This is seen as the first step to redesigning the Library's constellation of buildings;
- investigate and pilot virtual and physical Research & Teaching Commons to bring together services in support of these activities across campus, and advance library services for the future;
- improve access to and discoverability of rare book, special collection, and manuscripts;
- evolve the Liaison librarian model for the 21st century by providing an orientation and mentoring program to foster the professional growth and the development of librarians as they progress through the tenure and promotion process.

Discussion ensued with members expressing some concern regarding the communication strategy. Members were not aware of the on-going consultation process and were assured by Dean Cook that feedback is still being welcomed. The representatives from both the Faculties of Medicine and Education

did express some concern that the impact on users (faculty, staff and students) be taken into consideration in future feasibility studies.

The Chair thanked Dean Cook for her presentation.

b. McGillX update

Laura Winer, Interim Director, Teaching and Learning Services

A brief update on the McGillX project was provided. Highlights included:

- *Food for Thought*, which is the first McGill offering, will end on 29 April;
- there continues to be a high level of engagement and discourse amongst the students and it is anticipated that the course will end with ~4K active students. This is quite high compared to other edX courses of a similar nature;
- an exit survey is planned and results will be shared when available;
- *Natural Disasters* with Professors Gyakum and Stix is currently in production and launch is planned for 28 May 2014;
- *Social Learning for Social Impact* with Henry Mintzberg will be the third offering;
- the fourth offering will be focused on sports medicine with Dr. Ian Shrier.

The initial commitment with edX was to provide four courses. The Advisory Committee will be reviewing the pedagogical and technological impact and will be considering the implications of long-term planning for distance/online education.

c. SLL Narrative

Professor Ollivier Dyens, Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)

The Deputy Provost advised that Principal Fortier would be presenting her [Proposed Vision and Priorities](#) for discussion at the Senate meeting of 19 March. As the SLL Narrative folds into the Principal's document, discussion of the Narrative itself has been postponed for the moment.

There being no further items for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.