McGill

MINUTES
Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning
Tuesday, December 7, 2021 (1:30pm – 3:00pm)
Remotely through Zoom

Present: Manuel Balán, Peter Barry, Andrea Creech, Didem Dagdeviren, Adam Finkelstein, Nathan Hall, Rosalie Jukier, Atagün Kejanlioglu, Sujata Madan, Annette Majnemer, Ioannis Psarmiligkos (for Roni Khazaka), Caroline Riches, Jenn Riley, Jennifer Ronholm, Nancy St-Pierre (Secretary), Derek Tannis, Laura Winer (Chair), Glenn Zabowski

Regrets: Chris Buddle, Veronique Brule, Angela Campbell, Sarah Leu, Divi Maheshwari

Guests: Angela Guadagno, Leigh Korey, Amanda Saxe, Marcy Slapcoff, Armin Yazdani

1. *Administrative:*
   a) *Adoption of the agenda*: the agenda was adopted as circulated
   b) *Approval of the minutes, October 26, 2021:* the minutes were adopted with the following revisions:
      i. *Pete Barry and Jenn Riley should be added to the list of attendees*
      ii. *Clarification from Rosalie re item 2a: the item should read as follows:* A central issue for discussion is who will be responsible for deciding on the mode of delivery. Guidance will be needed whether it's at the central, Faculty, or faculty level. Rosalie shared that the Faculty of Law has recently voted in favour of the following resolution at its September 13, 2021 meeting: *BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Faculty Council affirms its jurisdiction to oversee the design and mode of delivery of courses by recognizing instructor discretion to teach through various modes, including hybrid, blended and alternative methods, during the COVID-19 pandemic.*
   c) *Business arising:* no business arising was identified

2. **Discussion**
   a) *Office of Science Education (Marcy Slapcoff, Director) (Appendix A: presentation)*
      Marcy provided a brief overview on the raison d'être of OSE, as well as an overview of its current activities.

      Discussion ensued with Annette noting that as a research intensive institution, the connection between research and practice may get overlooked, or not recognized. Marcy noted that OSE has been making good progress but it is slow progress.

      Laura added that the vision for OSE was to bring people inform different areas, and to create cross-connections; these are now bearing fruit. Laura thanked Marcy and added that the presentation will be distributed to all members after the meeting.

b) *Hyflex Learning Environments (Adam Finkelstein, TLS) (Appendix B: presentation)*
Adam reviewed the context of blended models of teaching at McGill and provided members with a brief overview of the planned Hyflex pilot to be launched for Fall 2022. The pilot will follow a similar model to that used for the ALC pilots in 2009. Laura added that given the pandemic context, there has been a lot of pressure to offer hybrid or remote courses. This conversation will help signal the differences and ensure intentionality, while identifying benefits and costs.

Discussion ensued with the following being highlights:
o   Nathan noted he delivered a hybrid course last term and it seemed to go well. During the pandemic, enrolment was increased and was not reduced when classes returned to Campus. While initially overwhelming to plan, focusing on choices for students and allowing flexibility seemed to help. Students choose their participation mode (in-person, online or mix and match), and discussions are held primarily online. Students confirm their participation mode in advance so Nathan is able to adapt as needed.
o   Rosalie asked how this would work with international students and different time zones.
o   Manuel noted two concerns: how is content being transmitted, and there is a significant difference in social networking that students are able to do. This can be hard on programs that rely on the cohort effect.
o   Annette noted the importance in thinking it through from the students' perspective, and that learning styles should be taken into consideration.
o   In response to Annette's comment, Atagün noted that students really appreciated the flexibility afforded with hybrid learning plus the increase in accessibility. Social economic backgrounds could prove challenging. Atagün also stressed the importance of resources (i.e., TAs, technicians…)
o   Pete noted that there can be issues with academic integrity.
o   It was noted that if we are successful in offering hybrid courses, students may add pressure for more courses to be delivered this way. There is a need for university-level policies.
o   Laura noted that this will be discussed with the Working Group on Academic modes of delivery.
o   Tuition models were also discussed. There are important restrictions that will need to be considered, i.e., American students have issues with loans with online programs offered in Canada. Laura agreed with Atagün that the appropriate infrastructures (administrative, logistical, and physical) will need to be considered.
o   Adam added that the mode of delivery should be discussed at the programmatic level and not for each individual course.

Laura thanked members for their comments. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.