



Building the Teaching Commons: The Faculty of Teaching and Learning at Mount Royal

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Faculty of Teaching and Learning - context

- Mount Royal in Transition
- Academic Plan
- Commitment to teaching and learning
- Need for a champion

Faculty of Teaching and Learning - elements

- Department of General Education
- Department of Education and Schooling
- Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Academic Development Centre

Faculty of Teaching and Learning - proposal

- Faculty
- First in Canada
- Horizontal
- Focus for Teaching and Learning mission

Faculty of Teaching and Learning - debate

- Faculty – rather than centre
- Different
- T and L everyone's responsibility
- General Education
- Students
- Resources
- Too much change

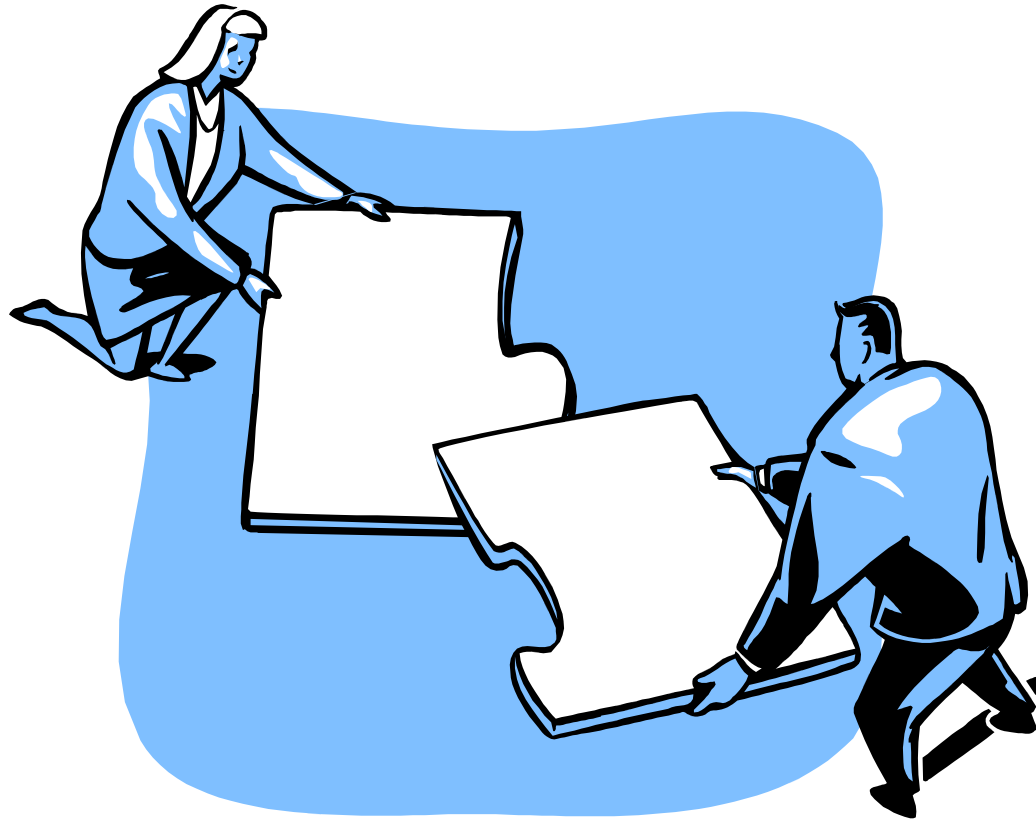
Faculty of Teaching and Learning - approval

- Academic Council/Board of Governors – May/June 2007
- “An act of faith?”

Launch – October 12/07



2007-08



Relationship Building & “Blue-skying”





Teaching & Learning

Programs
Departments
Contact Us

Events →

Faculties/Schools/Centres > Teaching & Learning



See Also:

- ▶ Academic Advising
- ▶ Learning Skills Centre
- ▶ Academic development
- ▶ General Education

Faculty of Teaching and Learning

Student learning is Mount Royal's core business and maintaining the highest quality of teaching and learning possible is priority one. To that end, Mount Royal has created the Faculty of Teaching and Learning, where students become educators and educators become students, exploring new ways to enhance their already exceptional teaching talents. Through the Faculty of Teaching and Learning, Mount Royal students can begin their journey to becoming teachers, while faculty can draw on resources and support to explore and enhance their instructional practice. Unique in Canada, the Faculty of Teaching and Learning provides institutional leadership in teaching and learning, and is a significant milestone in Mount Royal's aspiration to becoming a university.

The Faculty of Teaching and Learning consists of four units which focus on student learning

A-Z
Services and
Resources →Apply
Now →

Environmental Scanning



Distinguished Speaker Series in Teaching Excellence



2008-09



Faculty of Teaching and Learning - mission

...to provide leadership, support and inspiration to the advancement of teaching, learning and the scholarship of teaching and learning at Mount Royal.

The Advancement of Learning: Building the Teaching Commons (Huber & Hutchings, 2005)

Recommendations:

1. Establish more and better occasions to talk about learning.
2. Make students part of the discussion about learning.
3. Recognize teaching as substantive intellectual work.
4. Develop new genres and forms to document the work of teaching and learning.
5. Build and maintain the infrastructure needed to make pedagogical work of high quality accessible to all.

Faculty of Teaching & Learning: Select Strategic Priorities

- Provide venues for teaching enhancement to faculty at all points in their academic career
 - new faculty orientation & development program
 - peer collaboration triads program
 - faculty learning communities
 - reading circles

Select Strategic Priorities (cont'd)

- Create opportunities for dialogue with faculty/staff/students on teaching-learning related issues and challenges.
 - Teaching Excellence speaker series
 - faculty learning communities
 - reading circles
 - data-driven discussions

Select Strategic Priorities (cont'd)

- Foster communities of practice and networks of shared interest.
 - SoTL network
 - Faculty teaching in general education
 - Student Undergraduate Research
 - Other.....

Select Strategic Priorities (cont'd)

- Support engagement in the SoTL, scholarly approaches to teaching, and evidence-based teaching practice.
 - SoTL Institute and Endowed Chair
 - SoTL Network
 - Listserv, Digest, Faculty Presentation Series
 - Visiting Scholar – Dr. Richard Gale
 - Small Grants Program
 - Modeling evidence-based practice

Select Strategic Priorities (cont'd)

- Create opportunities for dialogue with students, and seek to understand the student experience as it pertains to teaching and learning.
 - monthly meetings with student VP Academic
 - Encourage dialogue around institutional assessment data pertaining to the student experience (NSSE; Globe & Mail survey; CUSC)
 - Explore assessment approaches (e.g. Richard Light)

Select Strategic Priorities (cont'd)

- Provide leadership and advocacy in support of the primacy of teaching and learning at Mount Royal
 - pathways to T & P for teaching-pattern faculty
 - SoTL as viable and valued form of scholarship
 - incentives, rewards and recognition
 - teaching excellence in faculty hiring criteria
 - celebrating excellence in T & L

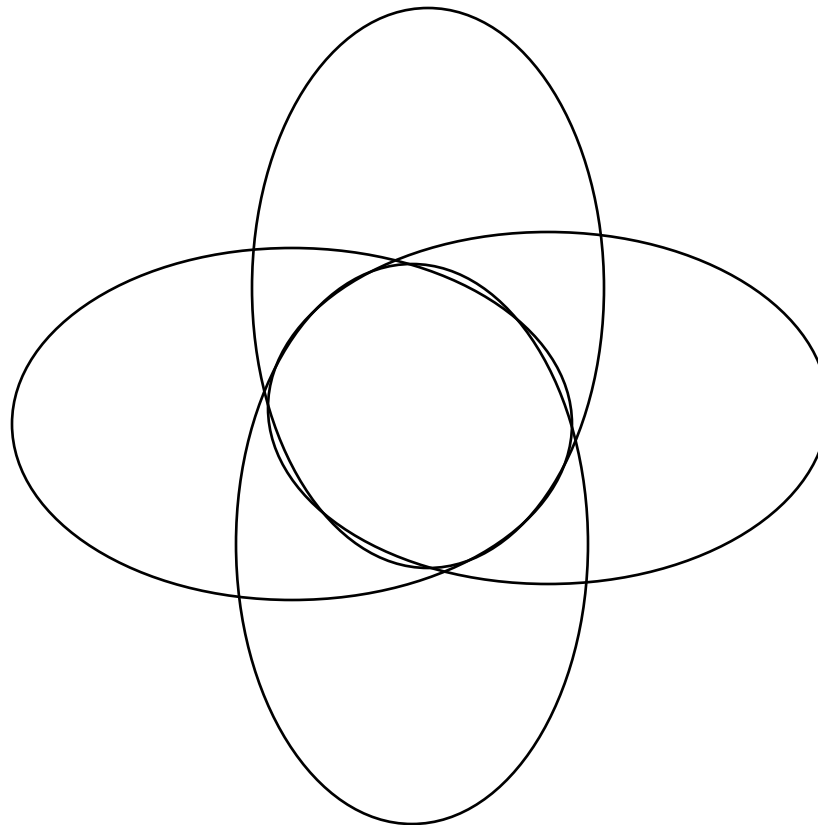
Key Challenges

- Merger of new, existing, and yet-to-be-established academic units
- Building collective identity, vision and strategic direction:
 - amidst competing (and very real) unit-specific challenges and priorities
 - in the context of institutional transition
 - while respecting individual unit mandates
- Demonstrating value for Mount Royal

Future Synergies?

Academic Development Centre

**Education and
Schooling**



**General
Education**

Institute for SoTL

Questions / Comments?