
**Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) Annual Report
for General Faculties Council 2020-2021**

DATE: May 19, 2021

SUBMITTED BY: Christian Cook, Chair of TLC

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The Teaching and Learning Committee mobilized early in the year, and in addition to the responsibilities delegated to us from the General Faculties Council, identified four priority areas for the committee. Working groups were created to address these as detailed below, with outcomes where appropriate, including recommendations for future work in the coming academic year. A summary of achievements is outlined here:

1. Learning Management System (LMS) Renewal Project

- a. The TLC is excited to announce Cheryl Techentin (Associate Professor, Psychology) as the chair of the LMS working group of TLC for the coming academic year (effective April 2021)
- b. LMS project received executive approval to proceed (fall 2020)
 - i. Project executive sponsor is Elizabeth Evans, Provost and Vice President, Academic
 - ii. Project business sponsor is Mike Quinn, Vice-Provost and AVP, Academic
 - iii. Project technical sponsor is Leona LaChance, Chief Information Officer
- c. LMS Steering Committee charter finalized (winter 2021)
 - i. Members of steering committee are: Mike Quinn, Leona LaChance, Christian Cook, and Cheryl Techentin (student rep to be announced)
- d. FYI (this is outside of the LMS working group), the project manager has been identified for the LMS Renewal Project (announcement coming soon) (May 2021)
- e. All community members can check the [ADC website](#) for [LMS updates](#) (ongoing).

2. Development of Common Guidelines for Course Syllabi

- a. Under the leadership of Chair, Shane Gannon, the team worked to create a series of recommendations and a template for common guidelines of course syllabi. This work and proposal were presented to GFC at its meeting on Friday, May 28, 2021.

3. The Future of Online Learning at Mount Royal University

- a. Under the leadership of Chair, Amanda Veinotte, this working group has worked this year to identify possibilities and priorities for the future of online learning at MRU. While our core business remains face to face teaching in the undergraduate context, we have learned through the past year there is room for some opportunities to provide learning in alternative formats. Recommendations will consider opportunities to remove bottlenecks and improve student options and pathways, reduce letters of permissions for online courses outside of MRU taken by our students, and provide greater choice for our students, while honouring and preserving the value we place on teaching excellence informed by scholarship.

4. Celebrate! Teaching and Learning Event Working Group

- a. See recap here:



Celebrate! Teaching and Learning Event Draws Hundreds

Our MRU campus community came together over three fabulous days to **Celebrate! Teaching and Learning**. We hosted 650+ registrants (over 200 unique attendees) to the more than two dozen sessions on offer. These were presented and attended by faculty, staff, students, and leaders. This extraordinary event was offered in a completely virtual environment from May 5-7, 2021. While we aim to host the event in person and on campus next year, we are already planning how to leverage technology to make this an even more accessible event.

Did you miss a session or want to review it again? Playbacks now uploaded.

Though the Celebrate! event has concluded, the celebration of teaching and learning does not have to stop! All from our MRU community can view [session and panel recordings](#) from the event, including our keynote speaker, Kate Sweeney and her incredible keynote on [Culturally Responsive Teaching and Mindset](#). Through her inspiring talk, Kate provided us several tangible tips and myriad opportunities to reflect on our own teaching (and learning) practices. This and other sessions can provide inspiration in course planning, and innovations in our physical and virtual classrooms.

New this year was the [Celebrate! Sparks Talks](#) format, which offered presenters just five minutes to share their perspectives, innovations, and learnings from the past year. This format was so well received that we will definitely be including it in next year's Celebrate! Event (and we'll get that date for you to save out soon!).

Keep the celebration going! Plan to provide a future boost to yourself and others for fall 2021.

To keep the positive momentum, why not send a postcard to future you or an MRU friend/colleague? Complete this quick [postcard details google form](#), and we will generate and deliver a postcard to you or to an MRU friend/colleague. Consider sending your future self, or an MRU friend/colleague a [postcard](#) of thanks or inspiration for the fall. We'll take requests until Friday, June 11 and create and deliver an old school, physical postcard with your personalized message and an MRU campus scene. These will appear in campus mailboxes in fall 2021.

MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

1. The LMS (a multi-year project) Working Group will remain operational and active in the coming year as the project continues to progress.
2. The Development of Common Guidelines for Course Syllabi Working Group will evaluate the need to continue or reconstitute their committee at the start of the new academic year.
3. The Future of Online Learning at Mount Royal University Working Group will break for summer and restart with the coming academic year.
4. The Celebrate! Teaching and Learning Event Working Group will be planning this fall for this awesome event next May (save the date coming soon!).

When the TLC reconvenes in the new academic year, we will discuss needs and resources for priorities that may include additional working groups.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Christian Cook, Chair (GFC Academic Staff Member) and Director, Academic Development Centre

Michael Quinn, Vice-Chair (Vice-Provost & AVP Academic)

Meagan Bowler, Dean, University Library

Amanda Venoitte, Manager, Learning Technologies (Academic Development Centre)

Brad Mahon, Dean Representative

Shane Gannon, Associate Dean responsible for teaching and learning

Cheryl Techentin, GFC Academic Staff Member - Arts

Meg Wilcox, GFC Academic Staff Member - Business and Communication Studies

Mohamed El Hussein, GFC Academic Staff Member - Health, Community and Education

Trevor Day, GFC Academic Staff Member - Science and Technology

Luciano Da Rosa Dos Santos, Academic Staff Member - Teaching & Learning

Katharine Barrette, Academic Staff Member - University Library

Patricia Pardo, Student Affairs Representative

Sara Reena, Student Representative

Alireza Rezvani, Student Representative

Resources

Jim Silovs, Associate Dean responsible for teaching and learning

Genevieve Currie, Associate Dean responsible for teaching and learning

Melanie Rathburn, Associate Dean responsible for teaching and learning

Leona LaChance, Chief Information Officer and Associate Vice-President, Information Technology Services

Sheena Jensen, Recording Secretary (Governance Assistant, GFC)

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

TLC had eight (8) meetings:

- October 13, 2020
- October 29, 2020
- November 26, 2020
- January 28, 2021
- February 25, 2021
- March 25, 2021
- April 22, 2021
- May 18, 2021

For additional information and meeting minutes, visit the [TLC](#) webpage.