

Date: 2013-06-11

To: Karen Roche, Secretary of Senate

From: Jane Nicholas, Chair of Senate Teaching and Learning Committee

Subject: Annual Report of the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (STLC) to Senate

The Committee has been very busy this year, and I would like to thank all the members for their commitment and work. This report includes some of the highlights from the collaborative work of the committee as well as highlights from the Instructional Development Centre (IDC).

In October, the Instructional Development Centre in conjunction with the STLC sub-committee on Teaching and Learning Week, the Office of the Vice-President Academic, the Student Success Centre, the Student Accessibility Centre, and Health and Counseling Services planned Teaching and Learning Week (October 15-19, 2012) and the 8th Annual Symposium on Teaching and Learning. Events included:

- Opening Ceremony
Dr. Rod Hanley, Provost and Vice President Academic, Dr. Moira McPherson, Deputy Provost and Dr. Rhonda Koster, IDC Director
- Workshop 1: Maintaining Academic Integrity: Combating the Rising Tide of Plagiarism Provided by Dr. Frank Cappadocia, Assistant Dean, Student Affairs; Dr. Jennifer Roth, Women's Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities; Dr. David Richards, Faculty of Business Administration; Valerie Gibbons, Head of Reference/Acting Circulation Systems
- Three Brown Bag Sessions: Students at Risk
The brown bag sessions focused on three key 'at risk' student groups: international students, students from remote communities and first generation learners.
Facilitators included: Dr. Christina van Barneveld, Faculty of Education and Bryanna Scott, Coordinator, Aboriginal Culture & Support Services
- KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. John Gardner
The Lakehead First Year Experience: The Foundation for Undergraduate Excellence
Our keynote speaker was Dr. John Gardner, an eminent and internationally recognized scholar on undergraduate student success, who spoke to the current status of the first year student experience at Lakehead University.

Dr. Gardner also facilitated a Chairs and Directors half day workshop on the first year experience, a half day workshop for the Student Success Centre, and had a luncheon meeting with the Faculty Deans.

- Workshop 2: A Student's Perspective on the First Year Experience
Facilitated by Dr. Gillian Siddall, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Workshop 3: Mind the Gap: Reconsidering the First Year Teaching and Learning Experience
Speakers included: Dr. Kevin Willison, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies; Dr. Craig MacKinnon, Department of Chemistry
- Workshop 4: Under Pressure: Supporting Students in Distress
Speakers included: James Wylie, Senior Counselor, Student Affairs (Orillia); Dr. Gillian Siddall, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities; Darrell Makin, School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Tourism; Karen Chan, Manager, Student Health & Counseling Services

Over the course of the year the Instructional Development Centre offered workshops for Faculty as well as the Graduate Student Teaching Practicum. For the second year in a row, faculty and graduate student workshops were held in conjunction. In total, 11 workshops were held (total attendance includes faculty, staff, and graduate students).

Fall Term

Fall Workshops, 2012

In attendance: 42

Registered: 55

Principles of Instructional Design – Dr. Rhonda Koster

Thursday, December 13

In attendance: 11

Registered: 15

Philosophy of Teaching in Higher Education – Dr. Jason Blahuta

Wednesday, November 21

In attendance: 11

Registered: 13

Strategies for Formative Assessment – Dr. Anthony Bartley

Tuesday, November 13

In attendance: 8

Registered: 10

Teaching Critical Thinking – Dr. Wayne Melville

Tuesday, October 30

In attendance: 12

Registered: 17

Winter Term

Total participants in attendance: 84
Total registered participants: 133

Completing the Graduate Student Teaching Practicum - Dr. Rhonda Koster
Thursday, April 18
In attendance: 3
Registered: 4

How to Facilitate Small Group Learning - Dr. Batia Stolar
Friday, April 12
In attendance: 4
Registered: 10

Team-Based Learning: One approach to student engaged learning – Dr. Rhonda Koster
Monday, March 25
In attendance: 4
Registered: 16

Real-World Knowledge Mobilization and the Classroom – Dr. Jennifer Roth
Wednesday, February 27
In attendance: 12
Registered: 20

Bringing Aboriginal Materials and Issues to the Classroom – Dr. Robert Robson
Friday, February 8
In attendance: 11
Registered: 20

Creating Multiple Choice Exams - Dr. Mary Louse Hill
Thursday, February 7
In attendance: 9
Registered: 12

Delivering a Successful Lecture - Dr. Mary Louse Hill
Thursday, January 24
In attendance: 18
Registered: 28

In addition, on April 10, 2013, the IDC hosted the first TEA (Teaching Excellence Afternoon). The theme of this gathering was a “Teaching and Learning Swap Meet” where instructors could come together to share one idea that works really well in their classrooms, and a challenge they are experiencing. The aim of the gathering was to create an opportunity for an informal exchange of ideas. Distinguished Instructor Award winners and Contribution to Teaching Award winners were personally invited, although everyone was welcome. There were 23 participants representing all faculties on campus. The event was well received and requests for hosting similar events in the future were made.

In 2013, the Committee brought forward a motion to Senate to change the process for the data collection of student evaluation of teaching (SET) surveys. At the April meeting Senate approved this change with an opt-out for faculty. The transition is in progress.

The Committee voted to approve a proposed regulation on timely feedback, which was subsequently approved by the Senate Academic Committee and brought to Senate.

The Committee recently struck a new sub-committee on creating an accessible learning environment. The sub-committee will report to the Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning, which will report to Senate on the sub-committee's activities.

The Committee recently reviewed nominees for the Contribution to Teaching Award and for the Distinguished Instructor Award and, as per the selection policies, has sent its recommendations to the Provost and Vice-President Academic.

Over the course of the year, the Committee has discussed the development of policies on bonus assignments and field trips. These discussions are ongoing.

The Committee is also continuing to discuss the preparation of a resource toolkit with the IDC on ways to encourage and improve class attendance and participation.

Finally, as chair I would like to express my thanks to everyone we've worked with this year. It has been a real pleasure to work on this committee and with people from across campus on these initiatives, especially the IDC, TSC, and Institutional Analysis. We appreciated all the feedback we received from the Lakehead University community and all of the discussion on the committee's proposals and activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Nicholas