

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Karen Roche, Secretary of Senate

From: Monica Flegel, Chair, Senate Teaching and Learning Committee

Subject: **Senate Teaching and Learning Report for February 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate Meeting**

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Questions can be directed to the chair via email [mflegel@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:mflegel@lakeheadu.ca) or telephone (text. 8285).

**Items for information**

The Committee met on January 9<sup>th</sup> and on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, Sarah Browne from Institutional Analysis presented data to the STLC on the fall teaching evaluations. While she did not yet have data on the paper evaluations, she presented that, in terms of the online evaluations, there were fewer technical difficulties this year and slightly higher rates of return: 34.4% for 2014, as opposed to 31.2% for fall 2013. The committee agreed that the SET Sub-Committee should discuss ways of increasing student engagement in the online system, and that more detailed data might be useful in terms of comparing the two evaluation systems.

The Committee was presented with reports by both the Teaching Awards Sub-Committee and the Student Evaluation of Teaching Committee – both were hard at work revising policy. At the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Teaching Awards Sub-Committee noted that, despite having several productive meetings on the subject, the work of revising the guidelines for the Distinguished Instructor Award was still in progress; the members expressed their desire to ensure that the work on the guidelines not be rushed and that they receive sufficient feedback both from the larger STLC and from Senate before attempting to push through guidelines for this year's competition. They suggested that we keep the same guidelines and criteria as previous years for the 2015 award competition, with the inclusion of the following: "The review committee will assess eligibility in light of the direction given by Senate at their October and November 2014 meetings." The Teaching Awards Sub-Committee is also asking members of Senate to provide written feedback to the Sub-Committee as to what they would like to see in the guidelines for the Distinguished Instructor Award, particularly in terms of eligibility. Please email any

comments to the Chair of the Sub-Committee, Nancy Luckai, at [deputyprovost@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:deputyprovost@lakeheadu.ca).

The SET Sub-Committee also presented information at the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, bringing forward the suggested changes to the SET Policy, which is due to be updated this year. These changes were made to address the statements made re: SET in the 2011-2015 Collective Agreement, and to acknowledge the dual system of evaluations currently in place. As well, the Sub-Committee suggested that “evaluation” be replaced with “feedback,” as the members felt that evaluation is performed by peers at Merit and PTR, while “feedback” more accurately represents what the student-filled forms record at the end of a course.

### **Items for discussion**

### **Items for decision – Motions recommended for Senate approval**

**1**

**MOVED that the revisions to the previously entitled policy, “Student Evaluation of Teaching at Lakehead University” be approved with the new title, “Student Feedback on Teaching at Lakehead University”.**

**2**

**MOVED that the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee Report be accepted.**

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