

GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Terms of Reference

1. Authority

The *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)*, Section 26(1), gives General Faculties Council (GFC) responsibility, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors, over “academic affairs.” GFC has thus established a Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE), as set out below.

The complete wording of the section(s) of the *PSLA*, as referred to above, and any other related sections, should be checked in any instance where formal jurisdiction or delegation needs to be determined.

2. Composition of the Committee

Note: All members of the Committee on the Learning Environment will be voting members (EXEC 04 DEC 2006)

Ex Officio

Chair – Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Vice-President (Research)

Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union

Vice-President (Academic), GSA

Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian

Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Technology) (EXEC 04 DEC 2006)

Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning

Vice-Provost and University Registrar

Elected by General Faculties Council

Four staff representatives (Category A1.0)*, elected by GFC, at least one of whom must sit on GFC

One support staff representative (Category S1.0* or S2.0*), elected by GFC

One undergraduate student at-large

One graduate student at-large

Appointed Members

One Chair, selected by Chairs' Council (EXEC 04 DEC 2006)

One Dean, selected by Deans' Council (EXEC 08 SEP 2008)

Two Associate Deans or Associate Chairs, Teaching and Learning (or equivalent) appointed by the Chair of GFC CLE in consultation with the Chair of the GFC Nominating Committee (EXEC 06 JUN 2011)

One staff representative (Category A1.0*) who holds a major teaching award (internal or external award, eg Rutherford, Vargo Chair, 3M, etc.) appointed by the Chair of GFC CLE in consultation with the Chair of the GFC Nominating Committee (EXEC 04 DEC 2006) (EXEC 06 JUN 2011)

* See UAPPOL Recruitment Policy (Appendix A) Definition and Categories of Academic Staff and Colleagues and (Appendix B) Definitions and Categories of Support Staff for definitions of these categories of staff members.

3. Mandate of the Committee

The Committee on the Learning Environment is a standing committee of the General Faculties Council that promotes an optimal learning environment in alignment with guiding documents of the University of Alberta. (EXEC 04 DEC 2006)

The Committee on the Learning Environment is responsible for making recommendations concerning policy matters and action matters with respect to the following:

- a) To review and monitor the implementation of the University's Academic Plan with regard to optimal teaching and an optimal learning environment.
- b) To review and, as necessary, recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee or the GFC Executive Committee policies on teaching, learning, teaching evaluation, and recognition for teaching that promote the University's Academic Plan.
- c) To review and, as necessary, recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee or the GFC Executive Committee policies developed by the Learning Services units to promote the University's Academic Plan. (GFC 22 SEP 2014)
- d) To develop policies that promote ongoing assessment of teaching, learning, and learning services through all Faculties and units.
- e) To nurture the development of innovative and creative learning services and teaching practices.
- f) To encourage the sharing and discussion of evidence about effective teaching, learning, and learning services.
- g) To promote critical reflection on the impact of broad societal changes in teaching, learning, and the learning environment.
- h) To promote projects with relevant internal and external bodies that offer unique teaching and learning opportunities that would benefit the university community.
- i) To consider any matter deemed by the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment to be within the purview of its general responsibility.

4. Committee Procedures

See General Terms of Reference.

5. Additional Reporting Requirements

None.

Updated September 24, 2014

R:\GO04 General Faculties Council - General\PRO\TER\LEA\Committee-on-the-Learning-Environment.doc