# Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) Meeting Minutes ~ April 13, 2015

### Attending:
Stephanie Chu, Acting Chair  
Bob Muir  
Diana Cukierman  
Donna McGee-Thompson  
Julian Christians  
Rebecca Whitmore

### Absent:
Panos Pappas, Bob Muir, Michael Johnson, Nancy Johnston, Kevin O’Neill, Nienke Van Houten, Corinne Pitre-Hayes

### Guests:
Chardaye Bueckert, Simon Fraser Student Society President

### Scribe:
Denise Buck

## Topic: Approval of Agenda

The agenda was adopted.  
**Moved:** Julian, **Second:** Diana

## Topic: Approval of Previous Minutes

The March 23, 2015, minutes were approved.  
**Moved:** Julian, **Second:** Diana

## Topic: Business Arising

**TCE Project Update (Corinne Pitre-Hayes via email):**  
- Project is on track with Pilot 1 moving along well  
- Targeting Faculty/Department level questions being firmed up for both Faculty of Health Sciences and Education around the first week in May  
- Instructors are being identified and we will be starting the process to gather detailed requirements at the end of April  
- A number of departments from the Faculty of Science are on board for Pilot 2  
  and we hope to confirm a few more soon and will start the process for the Faculty level questions

## Topic: Chair’s Report

- SFU Read project now currently called SFU Digital Resource Management Strategy has moved to the Teaching and Learning Centre. Stephanie Chu to be the point person for Pearson  
- Pearson may still contact SFU faculty and staff but will not refer to the Task Force on Flexible Education (TFFE)  
- Education and Physics are participating in the pilot this summer, OER is looking at a Fall pilot, larger classes with more than 100 students most suitable for pilots due to cost savings  
- Pilots will provide information on value, how best to implement, how long to keep materials, and long term sustainability  
- Julian Christians suggested contacting Mastering Genetics Biology 202 instructors regarding pilot

### Action Items:
- Confirm if SCUTL to receive a report from TFFE  
- Contact Stephanie regarding SFU Read pilots

## Topic: SCUTL Annual Report Draft Review

- Stephanie required to send to Senate by April 30th

### Action Item:
- Email draft report for committee feedback to be received by Monday, April 20th

## Topic: Open Textbooks

*Handouts attached*  
- The following information was provided:
President, Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS)

- Open Textbooks, BCcampus pamphlet
- What are Open Textbooks?
- Maximizing the BC Open Textbook Program, SFSS
- Open Textbook Summit 2015
- SFSS Presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
- SFSS Petition
- List of 16 Most Popular SFU First Year Courses and Available Free Textbooks

- Open Textbooks are free, peer-reviewed educational resources that are available online through Creative Commons licencing
- BC Open Textbook Program is a Government of British initiative, administered by BCcampus, created to produce free resources for students in place of standard textbooks
- Since 2012, students in BC have saved $350,000
- Credit is given to the original author and the textbook is customizable for the course
- SFU’s first Open Textbook adoption was this semester (information/data obtained from BCcampus)
- SFSS supports Open Textbooks due to the cost savings for students
- An SFU barrier to adoption is the time required by Faculty to customize the content, SFSS has recommended to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services that funding be made available to help faculty members at research institutions customize open textbooks to their courses
- Fall 2014, 3,000 students signed a petition supporting Open Textbooks
- SFSS has presented information at BC Open Textbooks, CanvasNow, SFUFA, and the SFU Library Liaisons Panel
- In Fall 2014, SFSS created a list of the most popular courses at SFU and sourced corresponding Open Textbooks
- Currently two Open Textbooks have been produced by SFU faculty
- There are several phases to the Open Textbook Program with the first step being a repository created from what is currently available, another phase is to look at creating content specific to BC, BC Government commissioning BC faculty to develop
- The Open Textbooks Program selected the 57 most popular introductory level first and second year courses
- SFSS respects faculty expertise and diversity in textbook selections
- Some faculty members have waived royalties and made their textbooks available for Open Textbooks
- Discussed faculty concerns: 1) quality of the resources, 2) introducing to courses; and 3) publishing requirements for tenure track faculty
- Some US institutions now accept Open Textbook publishing as meeting the requirements for tenure track faculty
- A challenge is creating awareness amongst faculty which the Teaching and Learning Centre may be able to assist with
- Chardaye is completing her term as SFFS President this week
- Committee recommendation to be presented to BC Government by SFSS:
  - BC government could strategically create Open Textbooks to be
applicable to courses across institutions and provinces
  o Provide grants to target core courses

**Action Items:**
- Send any questions, feedback, suggestions to Pierre Cassidy ([policyresearch@sfss.ca](mailto:policyresearch@sfss.ca)) or Brady Wallace ([vpuniversityrelations@sfss.ca](mailto:vpuniversityrelations@sfss.ca)) or [president@sfss.ca](mailto:president@sfss.ca)

**7. Roundtable**
- Bob will be attending the May meeting
- Thank you to Bob and Donna for their contributions, thoughtful feedback and insights.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. The next meeting is Monday, May 11, 2015, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon, EDB 7512 (TLC Seminar Room).