



SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND LEARNING (SCUTL) REPORT TO SENATE (MAY 2015 – APRIL 2016)

SUBMITTED BY:
PANAYIOTIS A. PAPPAS, CHAIR & ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

Membership and Terms of Reference

SCUTL is a standing committee of Senate. Its Membership and Terms of Reference are given in Appendix I which is also available at <http://www.sfu.ca/senate-committees/scutl.html>

Meetings

SCUTL met 10 times between May 2015 and April 2016:

- May 11, 2015
- July 9, 2015
- September 30, 2015
- October 27, 2015
- November 24, 2015
- December 15, 2015
- January 28, 2016
- February 25, 2016
- March 31, 2016
- April 28, 2016

Guests

The following individuals met with SCUTL during this period:

Guest	Meeting Date	Topic
Corinne Pitre-Hayes	May 2015 – April 2016	Student Evaluation of Teaching and Courses (SETC)
Jon Driver	September 30, 2015	Task Force on Flexible Education (TFFE)
Annette Santos, Steve Birnie	November 24, 2015	Back on Track, Student Engagement and Retention
Martin Mroz, Tara Black, Alisa Stanton, Rosie Dhaliwal	December 15, 2015	Health Promotion, Student Services



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Highlights of Completed Activities

This year, SCUTL members provided advice and feedback to a variety of individuals and groups in addition to performing specific committee functions. These are listed below:

1. Presented the motion that Senate approve the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on Flexible Education Final Report and request that the Vice-President Academic bring to Senate for further approval a more detailed action plan that takes into account the comments from SCUTL, other relevant Senate committees and Senate.
2. Recommended the renaming of the course evaluation tool from Teaching and Course Evaluation Project (TCEP) to Student Evaluation of Teaching and Courses (SETC) to be consistent with terms used in literature and to better communicate this is a student-centred tool.
3. Made recommendations to SETC regarding University-wide set of questions.

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Activities to be Undertaken in the Coming Year (2016-17)

1. Compile effective practices and principles for evaluating teaching at SFU.
 - With the anticipated implementation of online software and the new teaching and course evaluation tool over the next academic year, SCUTL will continue to lead a project to compile a set of principles and examples of best practices to complement the student evaluations. These resources may then be used by departments as they consider evaluating teaching more broadly and beyond the Student Teaching and Course Evaluation form. The project entails collaboration between SCUTL, academic and administrative units.
2. Continue active participation and input into the Task Force on Flexible Education's recommended future directions.
 - The Task Force's work is anticipated to have a broad impact on teaching and learning at SFU by identifying priorities, strategic directions and actions related to enhancing the SFU students' experience. SCUTL participation may include consulting on the implementation plan, forming and/or participating implementation groups to enact specific recommendations.
 - Digital Learning Resource Management: an emergent action from the TFFE's activities appears to revolve around digital learning resources, specifically, the potential and implications of Open Educational Resources and fee-based publisher materials and tools. SCUTL may provide and encourage faculty participation, provide feedback on pilot projects and input on SFU directions pending pilot results.
3. SCUTL will continue to explore ways to contribute to the SFU community by attending to teaching and learning issues and engaging in activities that are appropriate to its mandate.

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APPENDIX I

Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning

Standing committee (Reporting Category "B")

Last updated March 10, 2016

Members	Conditions	Term	Expiry Date	Name
Faculty Member of SCUTL	Chair: Elected by members of SCUTL	2 years	May 31, 2017	Panayiotis Pappas
Faculty Member (Applied Sciences)	Elected by Senate	3 years	May 31, 2016	Diana Cukierman
Faculty Member (Arts and Social Sciences)		3 years	May 31, 2017	Panayiotis Pappas
Faculty Member (Business Admin)		3 years	May 31, 2016	Michael Johnson
Faculty Member (Communication, Art & Technology)		3 years	May 31, 2018	Ker Wells
Faculty Member (Education)		3 years	May 31, 2018	Natalia Gajdamaschko
Faculty Member (Environment)		3 years	May 31, 2018	Shivanand Balram
Faculty Member (Health Sciences)		3 years	May 31, 2018	Laurie Goldsmith
Faculty Member (Science)		3 years	May 31, 2017	Julian Christians
Faculty Senator		3 years	May 31, 2018	Tony Williams
Undergraduate Student	Elected by Senate	1 year	May 31, 2016	Arjan Mundy
Graduate Student	Elected by Senate	1 year	May 31, 2016	Jenise Boland
Director, Teaching and Learning Centre (or designate)	Secretary, Ex-officio (voting)			Stephanie Chu
Associate University Librarian Learning & Research Services (or designate)	Ex-officio (voting)			Elaine Fairey
Senior Director Learning and Retention (or designate)	Ex-officio (voting)			Nancy Johnston
Recording Secretary (tlcdir@sfu.ca)	Ex-officio (non-voting)			Denise Buck

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Terms of Reference

Purpose

1. To provide institutional oversight on matters related to teaching and learning. These include but are not limited to educational goals, curriculum development and assessment, teaching and course evaluation processes, instructional development needs, and evolving teaching practices.
2. To provide advice, guidance, and support to relevant University bodies and stakeholders on matters related to teaching and learning.
3. To consider such matters, related to teaching and learning, referred to the Committee by Senate and its committees.

Operation

1. The Committee quorum shall be five members.
2. The Committee may establish sub-committees to gather information, develop expertise, conduct pilot projects or perform other tasks as assigned.
3. Committee meetings shall be open.
4. Committee meetings will be held monthly at times established before the beginning of each semester.
5. The Committee shall report to Senate in May of each year.
6. The Committee shall regularly solicit and review teaching and learning related surveys such as the annual SFU Undergraduate Survey, as well as reports of various units including but not limited to the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC), the Centre for Online and Distance Education (CODE) and the Student Learning Commons (SLC).
7. The Committee shall regularly communicate with related committees such as the Learning & Teaching Coordinating Committee and the Academic Integrity Committee.