

MEMORANDUM

Attention: Senate

From: Paul Kingsbury, Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching



Re: SCUTL Annual Report

Date: June 17, 2026

I am pleased to submit to Senate the 2025-2026 annual report of the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL).

SCUTL is charged by Senate with the following 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 the teaching and learning needs of all campuses and diverse academic disciplines in our work.
4. 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 nine 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. In general, an "alternate" member may attend meetings when a regular member is not available with prior notice to the Chair.

5. Committee meetings will be held monthly at times established before the beginning of each semester.
6. The Committee shall report to Senate in May of each year.
7. 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 Centre for Educational Excellence and the Student Learning Commons (SLC).
8. The Committee shall regularly communicate with other relevant committees. At the present time (Summer 2026), these committees include the Digital Learning Working Group, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, the Open Education Advisory Committee, and the IT Strategies Student & Instructor Experience Subcommittee.

This report is inclusive of the period May 21, 2025 to April 8, 2026 during which SCUTL held 10 meetings.

Activities

Highlights:

- Provided feedback on the Classroom Technologies Improvement and Upgrade project
- Provided feedback on the Academic Plan 2025-2030
- Provided feedback on Canvas Cloud migration project
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the Academic Concession Review Committee
- Provided feedback on and approved the Learning and Teaching with Artificial Intelligence Guidelines
- Approved the creation of the Digital Learning Working Group
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the AI Impacts on Instructors 2025 Report (assisted by L. Newton, Associate Director, LEAP)
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the Academic Integrity Policy S10.01 and Exam Scheduling Policy T20.02
- Provided feedback on the results of the fall 2025 Undergraduate Student Survey
- Provided feedback on increased demand for online final exams for online classes
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the School of Medicine curriculum (assisted by S. Palahicky, Director, UGME Program Administration)
- Reviewed and provided feedback on Educational Goal Assessment Plans from the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, Department of Geography, Department of Indigenous Studies, Department of Global Humanities, Department of Political Science, School of Interactive Arts and Technology, School of Environmental Science, Department of Philosophy, School of Engineering Science, and School of Sustainable Energy Engineering (assisted by A. Campbell, Educational Developer, CEE)
- Approved the Ethical Educational Technology Evaluation Rubric (assisted by P. Gill, Instructional Designer, CEE)
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the renewal of the Faculty Teaching Fellows program

Guests/consultations:

Alice Campbell, Educational Developer, CEE
Angela Chong, Senior Director, Client Services, ITS
Arlette Stewart, Academic Integrity Coordinator, SS
Dina Shafey, Associate Registrar, Information, Records and Registration, SS
Ernest Soares, Privacy Legal Counsel, ARM
Jackie Amsden, Communications Officer, C&M
Kamal Masri, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Beedie
Kelly Kim, Qualitative Analyst, LEAP, CEE
Kiran Bisra, Director, LEAP, CEE
Lana Newton, Associate Director, LEAP, CEE
Marcius Sim, Quantitative Analyst, LEAP, CEE
Mary Holmes, Director, Strategic Projects and Analysis, VPA
Parm Gill, Instructional Designer, CEE
Paul Hebbard, University Archivist and Coordinator of Information and Privacy, ARM
Peter Hall, Associate Vice-President, Academic, VPA
Peter Onata, Project Manager, Digital Transformation, ITS
Shelly Penner, Associate Director, Facilities and Capital Planning, Facilities Services
Sophia Palahicky, Director, UGME Program Administration, SoM

SCUTL members during 2025-2026 were:

Chair:

P. Kingsbury, Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching

Faculty Representatives:

Applied Sciences, D. Cukierman
Arts and Social Sciences, D. Heide
Beedie School of Business, K. Burke
Communication, Art and Technology, C. Jeschelnik (to March 2026), Ahmed Al-Rawi (April 2026 onwards)
Education, S. Smythe
Environment, T. Holland
Health Sciences, R. Tucker
Science, S. Johnson

Faculty Senator:

L. Carcano

Undergraduate Students:

J. Choi (September 2025 onwards), T. Deng (September 2025 onwards), A. Dukic (to June 2025), D. Fairfax (to June 2025), T. Hashemi

Graduate Students:

E. Accettola (September 2025 onwards), A. Mckinnon (Alt, to June 2025), T. Samuels (to June 2025)

Ex-officio members

Centre for Educational Excellence: K. Jayasundera (to March 2026), S. Turner (April 2026 onwards)

Lifelong Learning: J. Denholm, V. Zuccolo (March to April 2026)

Library: E. Magnus (to June 2025), A. Siddiqui (September 2025 onwards)

Student Affairs: CJ Rowe (to June 2025), E. Biddlecombe (September 2025 onwards)

Educational Leadership and Transforming Inquiry into Learning and Teaching: S. Fabian

IT Services: E. Holbrook

Recording Secretary: M. Desai (May 2025 to February 2026), E. Babingao (March 2026 onwards)

SCUTL subcommittees during 2025-26 were:

Canvas Cloud Advisory Committee

(May 2025 to January 2026, Co-Chairs, E. Holbrook, K. Jayasundera, P. Onata)

- Provided input on the project communication plan, pilot recruitment strategy, and course migration strategy.
- Ensured a smooth transition to Canvas Cloud, addressed key concerns, provided strategic guidance throughout the process.

Digital Learning Working Group

(first meeting December 2025, Chair, P. Kingsbury)

- Builds on the work completed by the Artificial Intelligence Learning and Teaching Task Force (Senate approved Guidelines) to coordinate the strategic selection, adaptation, and uses of educational technologies and pedagogical practices that support excellence in teaching and learning across the university.
- Completed an Ethical Educational Technology Evaluation Rubric (approved by SCUTL) for evaluating educational technology tools—including AI-enabled tools—in support of teaching and learning for diverse users.

Distinguished Lecturer Award & Policy Working Group (Co-Chairs, D. Cukierman and L. Carcano)

- Established in response to June 2024 Senate's notice of request that SCUTL investigate the possibility of creating a Distinguished Lecturer Award.
- Exploring how to cultivate a more inclusive understanding of academic roles instead of reinforcing the perception that Lecturers are only engaged in teaching.

Final Exam Scheduling Procedure Evaluation Working Group (Chair, S. Johnson)

- Investigating ongoing concerns from faculty, students, and TAs about the current Final Exams scheduling method wherein exam dates are released in the fifth or sixth week of classes
- Exploring how best to collect and analyze data on other issues including instances of numerous exams on consecutive days, large morning classes having evening exams, first-year students having multiple exams on the same day, and large classes with final exams scheduled at the end of exam period, which makes timely completion of marking difficult.

- LEAP collected and analyzed data on final exam timing (weekdays vs. weekends, beginning vs. end of exam period, etc.), comparing before and after the new scheduling method was adopted.
- Added a question to the 2025 Undergraduate Student Survey to gauge student experience with final exam scheduling. A TILT RA did a thematic analysis of the data gathered by this survey.

Learning Spaces Strategy Working Group (final meeting September 2025, Co-Chairs, E. Holbrook, S. Penner, E. Stockand, O. Reitzik and K. Jayasundera)

- Established to support the development of a strategy that will ensure the continuous enhancement and effective management of our physical, virtual, and hybrid learning spaces.
- Consulted with numerous academic units, administrative departments, and committees to inform a report released in January 2026 to guide implementation of strategy.

Open Education Advisory Committee (Chair, Hope Power)

- Supported a successful Library application for a BC Open Education Institutional Grant (\$33,000) awarded to SFU in Spring 2025. The grant funded a Librarian Project Lead to advance open education infrastructure at SFU through several key initiatives (below) aligned with recommendations from the Committee's 2023 Action Plan.
- Developed and launched a new [Open Education website and support hub](#) for the SFU community
- Conducted a student survey in collaboration with LEAP to gather data to help shape future open education planning and strategy initiatives at SFU
- Reviewed and improved systems for tracking and sharing information about OER. adoptions in collaboration with the Bookstore.
- Proposed a specialized Excellence in Teaching Award celebrating excellence in open education for SFU instructors.