



ATTENDANCE

Education Council Members

Elle Ting (Chair)
Andrew Candela (Vice Chair)
Dave McMullen
David Wells
Denise Beerwald
Heidi Parisotto
Jo-Ellen Zakoor
Lucy Griffith
Natasha Mandryk
Todd Rowlatt

Regrets

Brett Griffiths
John Demeulemeester
Nona Coles

Guests

Shirley Lew

Recording Secretary

Darija Rabadzija

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 12:33 p.m. The meeting was conducted via videoconference.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- E. Ting acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional unceded territory of the Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

a) COVID-19 Response: Transitioning Instruction to Alternate Delivery Methods and Implications for Governance

- Education Council discussed governance implications of transitioning to alternate delivery methods in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the context of directives from public health authorities and indefinite K-12 school suspensions in B.C.

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Working Group

- D. Wells reported on the EOC working group meeting on March 16, 2020 to discuss plans for alternate delivery of courses. Face-to-face instruction was mostly suspended as of Tuesday until the end of this week. The current directive of health authorities is that campuses can remain open, but instruction should move online where possible. Some program areas may still require limited face-to-face instruction. Third-party regulators, such as the ITA and Health education regulators, are adjusting their requirements to support students in completing programs.
- Departments are working on filling out a spreadsheet for about 1400 active courses with plans for alternate delivery formats. Deans and operations managers should receive this information by the end of today. The working group will review the information to decide which programs can continue, and in which format, and will compile a report.
- Discussions about enrolment for classes starting after March 23 are underway; in addition to alternate delivery formats, the impact of reduction or elimination of face-to-face services (registration, library, etc.) needs to be taken into consideration.

Considerations for Governance

- Education Council discussed the need to allow for timely adjustments to curriculum, which would normally require governance approval (adjusting evaluation plans, resequencing courses, and changing assessments), in order to enable alternate delivery methods.
- E. Ting suggested creating a provisional approval process, similar to course-based approvals by the REB, where departments would be given authority to make decisions after specific conditions for approval have been agreed upon. There was consensus that Education Council needs to be informed of changes, but several council members felt that the urgency of the situation and the challenge of managing day-to-day operations precluded creating an additional process.
- There was agreement to recognize the authority of the EOC planning group to make decisions during this emergency, with the provision that all changes are documented and records provided to Education Council for later review.
- The comprehensive spreadsheet compiled by the EOC working group will be shared with Education Council. E. Ting requested including a column to provide a rationale for changes, and emphasized the importance of conducting and capturing thorough department consultations on changes.
- To ensure communication between the EOC working group and EdCo, the EdCo Assistant will be included in EOC working group meetings/communications, in addition to EdCo members E. Ting and T. Rowlatt, who are already part of the working group.
- Education Council appreciated the faculty-driven process to adjust delivery methods, with the data collected in the spreadsheet providing an opportunity to share creative ideas and evaluate the success of different approaches. L. Griffith emphasized the importance of staying connected with students and departments to prevent feelings of isolation, and encouraged departments to support each other with online delivery. S. Lew reported that the CTLR is offering four Zoom learning sessions and is planning additional workshops. T. Rowlatt suggested a newsletter as a way to share ideas and positive stories of collaboration.

4. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m. Upcoming EdCo and Standing Committee meetings will be conducted via Zoom.

APPROVED AT THE APRIL 14, 2020 EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING

Elle Ting
Chair, VCC Education Council