

# Memo

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To: Christene Carpenter Cleland, Chair, T&LPC

From: Rajiv Jhangiani, Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning

Date: April 6, 2023

Subject: **Report of the Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning**

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide a regular report to the members of T&LPC. The following is a summary of relevant activities between March 3 and April 6, 2023:

## Centre for Pedagogical Innovation

- Celebrating Teaching Assistant Excellence
  - CPI is pleased to announce the Teaching Assistant award winners for 2022-23:
    - Teaching Assistant Award: Oya Pakkal, Department of Psychology
    - Graduate Teaching Assistant Award: Nwakerendu (Kay) Waboso, Department of Child and Youth Studies
    - International Teaching Assistant Award, co-recipients: Thien Bao Le, Biological Sciences and Zihang Bu, Department of Child and Youth Studies
    - Novice Teaching Assistant Award, co-recipients: Alison Smoke, Department of Health Sciences and Rebecca Rios, Department of Health Sciences
  - In addition to the Award winners, CPI celebrated teaching assistants who completed CPI's four certificate programs:
    - Certificate in Online Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (6 credits),
    - Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (8 credits),
    - Advanced Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (16 credits and a statement of teaching philosophy), and
    - The Graduate Teaching Assistant Practicum
- GRST 5P01: Theory and Practice of University Teaching and Learning
  - CPI will have a spring/summer offering of GRST 5P01 which will include a paid internship for graduate students. The course will be taught by Dr. Currie-Patterson starting May 2, 2023.
- Educational Technologies
  - Turnitin [launched a new Artificial Intelligence detection tool](#) on April 4, 2023. This is the first additional service Turnitin has added to their originality reports since ETS Grammar Check was added over a decade ago. The rush to release this functionality has raised concern across Turnitin's client base. The experimental tool is currently disabled for Brock University, as it is for many universities across Canada, the United States, and Europe. As Turnitin refines this service, [which has garnered significant press attention](#), and gives Brock University and others the opportunity to evaluate the functionality before exposing student work, Brock University can consider adding it to its resources.
  - CPI is currently reviewing responses to the RFP to renew/replace the Echo360 video platform (NIF Project 2003).
  - CPI continues to host its first Wednesday of the month Educational Technologies Community of Practice. That group recent provided a good sounding board for some minor configuration options in Brightspace and offered a show and tell of technologies like

eGlass presentation tool members of the Faculty of Education have been evaluating.

- CPI Redesign
  - CPI has completed interviews for the position of LMS Operations Manager and thanks the external member for their support and the Office of People and Culture.

### **Co-op, Career, and Experiential Education (CCEE)**

- Our MedPlus program is closing out our 23rd year with celebrations and reflections on the program's success. Additionally, the Law Plus program, a mirror program of Med Plus but with the intention to provide students support and guidance to careers in the law field, will enter its 4th year this September. [Both programs are accepting applications](#) until April 15th.
- The Co-op team continues to work with our largest group of students searching for summer work terms. We are on track with last year's work term employment numbers, continuously securing a 92-95% success rate.
- CCEE will host a community and employer appreciation celebration on April 12 at the Marilyn I. Walker Campus.
- Two of our staff members, Laura Fyfe and Katrina Volpini, will share insights and learnings from our innovative approach to reflection in co-curricular programming at the National Society for Experiential Education's annual conference.
- The last of the three articles outlining the current and future endeavours of the newly launched Centre of Excellence in Career and Experiential Education was [published in the Brock News](#). This article highlights the innovative approaches to career development to ensure our students are prepared to articulate their skills and are adaptable to the future of work.

### **Other notable projects/initiatives**

- Provost's Advisory Group on Artificial Intelligence
  - The advent of GPT4 and other similar technologies has catalyzed a robust debate within higher education about the implications of artificial intelligence for a range of academic activities, including teaching, learning, and scholarship. With a view to ensuring that operational decision-making at Brock benefits from our significant in-house expertise, the Provost and Vice-President Academic is constituting an Advisory Group on Artificial Intelligence. The purpose of this group (which will meet monthly) is to advise the Provost and Vice-President Academic on matters related to the impact of artificial intelligence on academic activities. Faculty members or professional librarians with scholarly or other relevant expertise who wish to serve on this advisory group may express their interest by sending an email to [provost@brocku.ca](mailto:provost@brocku.ca) by April 28.
- Course Delivery Modes
  - Following consultations with T&LPC on March 10 and UPC on March 23, a formal motion to expand our spectrum of course delivery modes to include online (synchronous or asynchronous) with on-campus exams will be advanced for consideration at the April 6 meeting of UPC.
- Open Education
  - Brock's Open Education Working Group met on March 3 and will meet again on April 14.
  - The call for applications for Brock's new OER Adoption Grant program has been shared through the [Brock News](#), the [Provost's Memoranda](#), the CPI newsletter, and other channels. The application deadline is April 12.
- Examination Policy Revision
  - Work has continued in collaboration with the Registrar and CPI to draft revisions to the

university Examination policy. A recent discussion at USAC on March 29 confirmed support for the use of the term Midterm Examination in the revised policy language.

- Learning Spaces Modernization and Planning Advisory Group
  - This group, which serves in an advisory capacity to the Provost, met on March 8 and will meet again on April 12. One project has been recommended and approved during this time and involves combining office MCC C402 with the 18-seat seminar room C401 to create a 30-seat seminar room. Additional proposals will be reviewed at the April 12 meeting.
- Medical Self-Declaration Process
  - Together with Brad Clarke, I am currently reviewing feedback from the university community about this process. The Provost will bring an update concerning this process to an upcoming meeting of USAC.
- New Faculty Orientation
  - Planning has begun to envision a more fulsome orientation experience for new faculty members at Brock.
- Search Processes
  - I am involved in a few search competitions that are currently underway, including for the Student Ombuds.
- The [website of the Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning](#) has now been updated and hosts archived copies of my standing reports to T&LPC as well as my periodic video updates.

### Events and Presentations

- On March 22 I participated in the National Day of Work-Integrated Learning Celebration in the Rankin Family Pavilion during which several student award recipients were recognized. These included:
  - Experiential Education Student of the Year
    - Abdul Hannan Anjum, BBA
  - Co-op Student of the Year
    - Trenton Campbell, BBA Co-op (Undergraduate)
    - Somnath Srinath, MBA Co-op (Graduate)
  - [Sohail Chilmeran Scholarship](#)
    - Namanjot (Naman) Kour, BBA Co-op
- I attended a meeting of the Ontario Universities' Council on e-Learning (OUCEL) on March 10
- I attended a COU-organized virtual workshop on Rethinking University Space on March 30
- I attended a SPARC-hosted virtual workshop on Navigating Inclusive Access Textbook Programs on April 5
- I have been invited by the Psychology department to present on Open Educational Resources (OER) at their upcoming meeting on April 11. I will be joined by Jennifer Thiessen from the Library.
- I have been invited to attend a National OER strategy virtual meeting on April 14.