

# Memo

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To: Christene Carpenter Cleland, Chair, T&LPC

From: Rajiv Jhangiani, Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning

Date: February 10, 2023

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

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[brocku.ca](https://brocku.ca)

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 January 14, 2023 and February 10, 2023:

## Academic plan

- The academic plan received unanimous approval at Senate on January 18 and is now [hosted on the website of the Provost and Vice President Academic](#). I have begun working with units and colleagues across the university to develop implementation plans for each of the plan's 44 actions.

## Centre for Pedagogical Innovation

- Brightspace:
  - The adoption of our new learning management system has climbed from 25% during the Fall semester to 36.38% for the Winter semester.
  - Two new widgets have been added to Brightspace course homepages that are only visible to instructors:
    - Quick activate: for a Sakai-like publishing experience
    - Quick add: for adding users to all sections in one action
  - Instructor training is available at <https://experiencebu.brocku.ca/organization/cpi>
  - More information about Brightspace at <https://brocku.ca/pedagogical-innovation/next-lms/>
- Sakai:
  - The decommissioning plan for Sakai was adopted by the Senate Information Technology & Infrastructure Committee on February 3, 2023. As per this plan, on June 30, 2023 [lms.brocku.ca](https://lms.brocku.ca) will no longer point to Sakai and navigation links across Brock University's web presence will begin to point to Brightspace. Instructors who choose to teach with Sakai through the June 30, 2023 date will need to assist students in navigating to Sakai's final web address.
- CPI is currently hiring for an [LMS Operations Manager](#)
- Nominations for the [Teaching Assistant Awards](#) are due by March 3
- Nominations for the [Chancellor's Chair for Teaching Excellence](#) (to support the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning) are due by March 31
- CPI is currently developing [guidance for instructors to support informed decision-making around the use of ChatGPT](#)

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

- CCEE hosted 77 employer partners on campus on February 8 for Experience Expo, which marked our return to in-person career events. [The event was a great success](#) and enabled 2350 students to explore part-time, full-time, and co-op work opportunities.
- CCEE is piloting a new WE (work experience) WIL program with 8 students from Business Communications, wherein they will be guided through a career preparation course and then search for a four-month paid work experience. This program assists students not enrolled in co-op with an opportunity to have directly related, paid work experience.
- CCEE is working with our Experiential Education Champions across all Faculties on submitting a grant proposal to Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada to secure \$500,000 to address barriers to participation for students engaged in WIL experiences. If successful, the grants will be available starting in Spring 2023.
- Marisa Brown has been appointed Associate Director, Gerald B. Mitchell Centre of Excellence in Career and Experiential Education. Prior to this appointment, Marisa served as the Manager, Career Curriculum. This role is central to advancing Brock University's national leadership as a co-op, career and experiential education leader. [The Centre of Excellence is supported by a generous gift from the Mitchell Family](#) and will focus on developing and mobilizing knowledge, research, and best practices pertaining to experiential and career education. The Centre will ensure these best practices are embedded into programming and career curriculum by directing training and development across CCEE and the university. A 4-part news story about the Centre is forthcoming and will outline how the work of the Centre aligns with the Mitchell family's vision, including by removing barriers for unrepresented populations, increasing evidence-based approaches to career education, and leveraging skills and competencies learned through experiences to advance one's career.

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

- Brock University is now an official member of the [Open Education Network \(OEN\)](#). We are the first post-secondary institution in Ontario, and the second in Canada, to join the OEN.
- I am working with CPI, the Library, and the Campus Store on streamlining access to course materials. A faculty lunch & learn event is being planned for March 2 (details TBA).
- The Classroom Modernization and Planning Advisory Group met on February 8 and reviewed their updated terms of reference, available funding, the 2017 classroom audit, and Brock's space management policies. CMPAG members also discussed a teaching space occupancy project planned for Spring/Summer 2023 and the implementation of action 1g from the academic plan:
  - *Enhance physical and digital learning environments to support the delivery of high quality educational experiences across all course delivery modes;*
- In line with the work plan of USAC, I have been working in partnership with the Office of the Registrar and CPI to review FHB 3.A.9 (Examination). A set of conceptual questions related to potential revisions to this policy was presented for discussion at the December meeting of USAC and the January meeting of T&LPC. Revised policy language is currently being drafted and is expected to be brought to the March 29 meeting of USAC for consideration.
- I supported the [GRADFix competition](#) by serving as one of three judges. The People's Choice Award is open until February 22, with winners announced online on February 27 and showcased at the [MNK Graduate Student Conference](#).

### **Events**

- I attended the forum on [Addressing Ant-Black Racism on Campus](#) organized by the Faculty of

- Applied Health Sciences and another [BIPOC community social](#), both on January 19, 2023
- I participated in another national OER strategy meeting on January 23, hosted by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries
  - I joined President Rigg at a [reception](#) that engaged Brock alumni, donors, and community partners in Vancouver on January 25, 2023
  - On February 9 I attended an exceptional [Women in Leadership session on The Realities of Motherhood in Academia During a Pandemic and Beyond](#)
  - In support of Open Education Week, I will give two presentations on March 8:
    - The first is a [Goodman Group Business Breathers webinar](#) on Leveraging Open Educational Resources to Advance your Organization's Goals
    - The second is a lightning talk on Building Institutional Supports for Open Educational Practices, part of the [2023 Open Education Talks](#) hosted by the University of Calgary, Thompson Rivers University, Concordia University of Edmonton, the University of Alberta, and the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.