Memo

To: Christene Carpenter Cleland, Chair, T&LPC

From: Rajiv Jhangiani, Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning

Date: May 10, 2023

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

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 April 7 and May 11, 2023:

Centre for Pedagogical Innovation
- Teaching Assistant Awards
  - On April 10 CPI celebrated Brock's exceptional teaching assistants, including the recipients of the Graduate TA Award (Nwakerendu (Kay) Waboso, Child and Youth Studies), Teaching Assistant Award (Oya Pakkal, Psychology), International TA Award (Thien Bao Le, Biological Sciences, and Zihang Bu, Child and Youth Studies), and Novice TA Award (Alison Smoke, Health Sciences, and Rebecca Rios, Health Sciences).
  - The event also took time to present certificates for the completion of four CPI-led 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.
- 2023 Chancellor's Chairs for Teaching Excellence
  - The Chancellor's Chairs have been adjudicated for a three-year program of study of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Stay tuned for news about the successful recipients.
- Guidance on ChatGPT and Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - CPI continues to update its guidance on ChatGPT and generative AI. We've recently clarified our advice on efforts to detect AI content and added resources highlighted by other teaching and learning centres across Ontario.
- Brightspace Learning Management System
  - All content from FW2018-FW2023 Sakai content has now been copied to Brightspace.
  - Brightspace workshops are available for Instructors and TAs. There is at least one workshop scheduled per week until June.
- Staffing Updates
  - We are thrilled to welcome back Marc Breschuk. In his new role of Manager, LMS Operations, Marc will ensure tools like Brightspace and the Student Course Experience Surveys system run reliably and grow with Brock University.
  - Other recent staffing changes, including with Alisa Cunnington, Melanie Elliott, and Natalie Currie-Patterson's roles, are reflected on the CPI web site.
  - In June, CPI will recruit an Educational Developer, Accessibility and Inclusion as a dual report to Student Accessibility Services, with a view to also increasing support for faculty who require consultation around student accommodations.
  - Our thanks to the crew of current and recently graduated students who energetically support the work of the CPI team.

- Stay tuned to CPI updates through the summer by subscribing to the [CPI newsletter](#).

Co-op, Career, and Experiential Education (CCEE)
- Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) Bursary Program
    - We are thrilled to announce that we have received over $750,000 in funding from CEWIL Canada which includes a [$500,000 university-wide bursary](#) that aims to reduce barriers to participating in WIL. The bursary program, which will launch on May 15, will enable students to request support by indicating the length of their WIL experience, the barrier(s) they are facing, and their financial need. This program will run this Spring and Fall terms and will help identify some of the challenges our students face.
    - In addition to the CEWIL funding, the University has made available $25,000 for international students who participate in WIL programs to help mitigate some of their financial barriers (this will involve a separate application).
    - Both categories of bursaries will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.
    - Other faculty members were also successful in securing innovation grants from CEWIL and our CCEE team is assisting in the delivery of those programs.
- Co-operative Education
    - The co-op office is working with students ahead of their summer placements while also working with students who are searching for a work term experience in the Fall.
- Career Education
    - The Career Team is currently busy adjudicating Med and Law Plus applications.
    - We have also welcomed Michelle Root to the team, who will be developing and launching Indigenous Plus, a co-curricular program that is collaboratively delivered with the Hadiya'dagénhahs First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Student Centre team.

Other notable projects/initiatives
- 3M National Teaching Fellowship Awarded to Kai-Yu Wang
    - [Kai-Yu Wang](#) (Marketing, International Business, and Strategy Department, Goodman School of Business) has been awarded the prestigious 3MNTF, which is Canada's highest honour for post-secondary teaching.
    - Brock University is now the proud home of 13 3MNTF recipients. This ranks Brock 3rd among 14 comprehensive universities, 5th among Ontario post-secondary institutions, and 8th across the 64 Canadian post-secondary institutions that have received at least one 3MNTF. This level of recognition speaks volumes about the community of exemplary and innovative educators and the great value that Brock places on teaching excellence.
- Open Education
    - Brock's Open Education Working Group met on April 14 and again on May 9 and has concluded the adjudication of our first round of OER Adoption Grant applications. Our inaugural cohort of grant recipients includes Keri Cronin (Visual Arts), Scott Neufeld (Psychology), Paul Leblanc (Health Sciences), and Steven Khan and several his colleagues (Educational Studies). These OER Adoption grants have been funded by the Brock University Students' Union and will support the adoption of open educational resources across eight courses, with an expected yearly student savings of $167,000.
- Computerized Exams Pilot
    - I have been working with colleagues in ITS and ORES to pilot the delivery of computerized examinations on campus in a way that allows for in-person invigilation but secure and efficient delivery through Brightspace, our learning management system. Following a

successful pilot with 3 courses during the final examination period in April, our three areas are working together to determine whether and how the university may be able to support this new way of delivering examinations, whether for fully on-campus courses or online courses with on-campus exams.

- Examination Policy
  - o The Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee voted on April 26 to recommend the revised policy language to Senate, which considered this on May 10 and elected to send this back to the committee to reflect on additional feedback.
- Learning Spaces Modernization and Planning Advisory Group
  - o This group met again on April 12 and has formed subgroups focused on a) prioritizing accessibility, b) evaluating of our existing learning spaces, and c) learning from other post-secondary institutions. The group will meet again on May 11.
- North-West University
  - o On April 28 I met with visiting representatives from North-West University (South Africa) to discuss potential areas of collaboration related to teaching and learning.
- Student Ombuds
  - o I have chaired the search for Brock's new Student Ombuds, which is in its final stages.

Events and Presentations
- I attended a meeting of the Psychology department on April 11 to present on Open Educational Resources (OER). I was joined by Jennifer Thiessen from the Library.
- I attended CCEE's wonderful community and employer appreciation celebration on April 12 at the Marilyn I. Walker Campus. The event recognized the recipients of our Experiential Education Student of the Year, Co-op Student of the Year, Sohail Chilmeran Scholarship, Entrepreneurship Scholarship, Alumni Co-op Employer of the Year, and Co-op Employer of the Year awards.
- I attended a National OER strategy virtual meeting on April 14.
- I attended the 24/25 Cyclical Review Orientation on April 17 during which I addressed the connections between the Academic Plan and the program review process.
- On May 3 I attended the Library's Student Success Forum and engaged in an invigorating and in-depth discussion with the team about institutional supports for open educational practices.
- On May 4 I attended the meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Board Financial Planning and Investment Committee.
- I attended the 2023 Open Education Conference community meeting on May 10.
- Senate hosted an engaging discussion about trauma-informed practices on May 10. The report that supported that discussion is attached to my report for the reference of members of T&LPC.
- I will give an invited plenary address at the Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science on May 26 in Washington, DC.
- I will give a keynote address on "The Web that Is" at the Reclaim Open conference in Fredericksburg, Virginia on June 7.
- I have been invited to give the opening keynote address at the 20th annual Open Education Conference on November 7, 2023.