Memo

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To: Christene Carpenter Cleland, Chair, T&LPC

From: Rajiv Jhangiani, Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning

Date: December 8, 2022

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 during my first 100 days at Brock:

Review of CPI and CCEE operations
In addition to getting to know the exemplary teams within the Centre for Pedagogical Innovation (CPI) and Co-op, Career, and Experiential Education (CCEE), I have been reviewing the operations and capacities of both units. I will note that both are challenged by the loss of key personnel, mainly as a result of an inability to provide compensation comparable to local colleges and municipalities. Given the critical role of our digital learning infrastructure in supporting our teaching and learning operations, the current severe short staffing within CPI represents an acute organizational risk that we are working to address with our colleagues in Human Resources.

Revising & consulting on the draft academic plan
Revising the draft academic plan and shepherding it through the final consultation process has been a key priority. This work has involved reviewing the previous iteration, studying the survey responses and other input collected during the initial development process, consulting widely with partners across the university, revising the draft plan, and working with the Chair of the Planning, Priorities & Budget Advisory Committee (PP&BAC), through the final consultation process, including discussions at T&LPC, PP&BAC, Information Technology & Infrastructure Committee (IT&IC), Graduate Studies Committee (GSC), Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee (USAC), Undergraduate Program Committee (UPC), and Governance Committee (GC), as well as a generative discussion at Senate.

Meeting with faculty and students
I have met with faculty across the institution to better understand their needs and aspirations related to teaching and learning. This includes visits with the Faculty of Social Sciences faculty council, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences executive committee, Faculty of Education leadership council, Faculty of Math and Science Chairs and Directors, Graduate Council, individual departments such as Educational Studies and Psychology or sub-units such as the Library's Scholarship of Teaching & Learning group, discussions with Senate and BUFA leadership, and dozens of conversations with individual faculty members, including our new experiential education champions and faculty at the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine & Performing Arts, from where I work on regular part-time basis.

In addition to regular meetings and consultations with representatives of BUSU and GSA, I have engaged directly with students to better understand their experiences and challenges, including at events such as Residence Move-in, new student welcome, international student orientation, co-op orientation, the BIPOC community social, the Friendship Cup, and Fall preview day.

Notable projects/initiatives

- Access to course materials: CPI is working with the Library and the Campus Store to streamline access to course materials within Brightspace, our new learning management system.
- Burlington campus planning: I have been involved in planning discussions with the Faculty of Education, ITS, and facilities management in relation to the teaching and learning spaces within our forthcoming campus in Burlington. A further consultation is planned with the Faculty of Education on December 7.
- Examination policy revision: As part of the work plan of USAC, I am working with staff in the Office of the Registrar and CPI to review Section 3.A.9. of the Faculty Handbook (Examinations).
- Classroom modernization & planning advisory group: I am reconvening this body, which advises the Provost on projects and expenditures related to classroom technology, classroom infrastructure, and classroom standards.
- Brightspace transition: CPI continues to support the university's learning management system transition from Sakai to Brightspace, with project courses available upon request and content being migrated from Sakai by department in reverse alphabetical order.
- Instructor Certificate Program (ICP) in University Teaching and Learning: This new CPI program is designed to offer flexible and varied opportunities for instructors to engage in pedagogical development through exploration and dialogue with colleagues from across the university in five domains: inclusive teaching, instructional design, assessment and evaluation, educational technologies, and reflective practice.
- Co-op modernization: CCEE is initiating a review of Brock's co-op project with a view to identify systemic operational challenges and modernize the co-op program so that it is more accessible, inclusive, and sustainable.

Developing internal partnerships
In addition to developing areas of functional collaboration between CPI and CCEE (e.g., support for faculty experiential education champions), I have devoted a significant amount of time to meeting with members of other administrative units to identify ways to advance shared goals, including in relation to actions listed in the draft academic plan. This includes Student Accessibility Services, Human Rights & Equity, the Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement, Information Technology Services, Student Services, the Office of Research Services, Academic Advising, the Office of the Registrar, Brock International, Ancillary Services, Privacy, Procurement, Institutional Planning, Analysis & Performance, Advancement & External Relations, Finance, and Human Resources.

Liaising with external partners
In addition to discussions with eCampusOntario on October 12 about opportunities for support and collaboration, I participated in the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) consultation on digital learning on October 27 (see the attached finalized COU submission to the Minister of Colleges and Universities). This discussion was reminiscent of discussions I helped lead in BC as a member of the BC Digital Learning Advisory Committee, on which I still serve as Chair of the Quality Enhancement Working Group. I also helped co-facilitate a National OER Strategy Summit on November 9 & 10 at York University, which was attended by representatives from student, library, and provincial organizations, in addition to faculty and staff from universities from coast to coast to coast.

Sharing expertise through presentations
I gave the following invited talks or keynote addresses:
- October 21: Keynote address, Annual Conference on Teaching, Society for the Teaching of Psychology, Pittsburgh, PA

- October 4: Invited talk, Centre for Teaching & Learning, University of Regina (virtual)
- September 10: Plenary address, Teaching Day, CPI/Brock University
- August 4: Keynote panel, CalOER Conference (virtual)
- August 1: Keynote panel, OER leadership summit, New England Board of Higher Education, MIT, Dedham, MA

Attachment

1. Finalized submission from the Council of Ontario Universities to the Minister of Colleges and Universities