Senate Committees

Report to the Teaching & Learning Policy Committee

Information Item

Topic: Standing report of the Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning

Date of Meeting: November 17, 2026

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1. Purpose of the Report

- Keeping members of T&LPC informed concerning relevant developments and activities within the portfolio of the Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning

2. Background

- Thank you for the opportunity to provide a regular report to the members of T&LPC. The following is a summary of relevant developments and activities between September 30 and November 10, 2026:

- **Centre for Pedagogical Innovation (CPI)**
  - **Tribute to Teaching**
    - Registration is open for Tribute to Teaching. Wednesday, December 2, 2026, at 11:30-1pm, Pond Inlet.The Brock community is invited to celebrate a year of teaching and recognize the 2026 recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award and the Brock Teaching Excellence Awards. The 2026 Distinguished Teaching Award Address will be given by Dr. Antonia Mantonakis, Professor of Marketing and Consumer Psychology at Brock University's Goodman School of Business and a Fellow of the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI).
  - **Faculty Fellows in Accessibility**
    - This Fellows program is designed to provide structure and space for faculty who are interested in exploring pedagogical innovations and/or SoTL research that relates to accessible pedagogy in their discipline.

Applications are encouraged from those who want to explore more accessible applications to teaching and who would benefit from the space, structure, and resources to support this work. More information is available on the CPI website.

- **Co-op, Career, and Experiential Education (CCEE)**
  - **Supporting Student Learning and Career Exploration**
    - CCEE continues to provide opportunities for students to connect their academic learning with professional pathways and develop career-readiness competencies. The Explore Careers In series includes sessions focused on AI and analytics, law, security and government, and healthcare, bringing students together with industry professionals to learn about career pathways, workplace expectations and emerging opportunities.
    - Co-op students enrolled in 0/5N90 preparation courses are also participating in networking simulations in early November designed to help them practise professional communication, relationship-building and career exploration in a structured learning environment.
  - **Fall 2026 Co-op Work-Term Learning and Employer Feedback**
    - Early Fall 2026 employer feedback indicated that 98% of Brock co-op students were performing at or above expectations, including 55% who were exceeding expectations. Employers highlighted students' initiative, adaptability, professionalism and increasing independence. Examples included students applying their learning to automate business processes, develop AI-supported technology solutions, improve organizational systems, contribute to public-sector budget analysis and create training resources.
    - As co-op programs are integrated components of academic programs, this feedback provides evidence of students' ability to apply academic knowledge and transferable competencies in authentic workplace environments. It also helps inform CCEE's ongoing approach to co-op preparation, reflective learning and student support.
  - **Experiential and Community-Engaged Learning through Plus Programs**
    - 37 Med Plus and Law Plus students participated in an experiential learning day in Toronto. Med Plus students visited the Michener Institute of Education, the Centre for Phenogenomics at Mount Sinai Hospital and the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Law Plus students visited Toronto Metropolitan University's Lincoln Alexander School of Law and participated in a networking event with Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP.

        - Med Plus and Law Plus students also prepared and served a community dinner at Southridge Shelter. Together, these activities connected students' academic and co-curricular learning with professional exploration, community engagement, empathy and advocacy.
    - **Co-op Pathways within Brock's Degree Framework**
        - CCEE is working with the Office of the Registrar and Enrolment Services to consider how co-op pathways and requirements should be incorporated into the implementation of Brock's new undergraduate Degree Framework. The work is examining how students may enter co-op following a general first year, along with the implications for program sequencing, advising, co-op preparation and informed student progression.

- **Professional & Continuing Studies (PCS)**
    - On October 16th, Brock Professional and Continuing Studies hosted the Ontario Council for University Lifelong Learning Summit at our Burlington Campus. The event gathered over 60 individuals from across Ontario and was highlighted by a keynote from Steve Orsini, President and CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities.
    - On October 19th, the Late Fall session began for PCS, welcoming 409 learners across a variety of subjects.
    - On November 4th, PCS delivered the second session to the Niagara Parks in a joint leadership program conducted by PCS and Goodman Group for Supervisors and Managers in the Niagara Parks. The next session will take place on November 25th.
    - PCS, supported by the work of Associate Professor of Nursing Vanessa Silva e Silva and Assistant Professor of Nursing Amina Silva, are launching a new micro-credential in AI in Nursing Education. More details can be found here.
    - Associate Director of ESL, Julian Inglis, is participating in the CALDO Consortium mission to Colombia from November 9-13th to identify opportunities for potential international partnerships in PCS as well as across the university.

- **Other notable activities**
    - **Student Teaching & Learning Fellows**
        - With the support of the Provost and the Deans, I have initiated a new Student Teaching & Learning Fellows program. The Student Teaching & Learning Fellows (2 students representing each of the teaching Faculties) will provide an ongoing student perspective on teaching and learning at Brock University. Fellows will serve in an advisory capacity

to the Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning and the Centre for Pedagogical Innovation (CPI), while also participating in the exploration and critical evaluation of emerging approaches, practices, and educational technologies.

- Congratulations to our inaugural cohort of student fellows:
  - Ben Johnson, Health & Physical Education,
  - Charlie Bender, Sport Management
  - Adam Hayes, BBA Co-op International Double Degree (Ireland)
  - Samantha Perreault, BBA
  - Jaime White, Primary/Junior Teacher Education
  - Rasleen Kaur, Early Childhood Education
  - Abby Scott, History
  - Sophia Munoz, English Language and Literature
  - Melissa Mazurkiewicz, Biological Sciences
  - Tavia Williams, General Science
  - Ike Ikerionwu, Child and Youth Studies
  - Farah Fernandes, Psychology
- Periodic meetings with the fellows have been scheduled for the remainder of the academic year, with representatives from BUSU and the GSA also been invited to attend.
- Across these meetings the Student Fellows will:
  - Advise the VPTL and CPI on priorities, initiatives, policies, and emerging issues affecting teaching and learning.
  - Bring forward issues, opportunities, and perspectives emerging from their own experiences and broader student communities.
  - Provide student input during the early development of new teaching and learning initiatives.
  - Participate in structured exploration, testing, and critical evaluation of emerging educational technologies and innovative teaching and learning practices.
  - Consider innovations through lenses that include student learning, accessibility, inclusion, privacy, equity, usability, academic integrity, and student agency.
  - Help identify emerging trends and changes in the student learning experience.

- **Key meetings**
  - Attended the annual meeting of the Canadian Digital Learning Research Association on September 30
  - Attended the meetings of the AI Taskforce on October 2 and 30 and its Teaching and Learning Practices Working Group on October 15
  - Met with BUSU leadership on October 5

- Attended the Indigenous Degree Level Expectations committee meeting on October 21
- Chaired the Student Ombuds Advisory Group meeting on October 21
- Chaired the Open Education Working Group meeting on October 22
- Attended the Generative AI and Assessment community of practice meeting on October 22
- Chaired the Academic Integrity Advisory Committee meeting on October 27
- Met with a representative from the Duke of Edinburgh Award program on October 28

- **Events**
  - Attended the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Student Honours Reception on September 30
  - Attended the Women's Lacrosse Game, part of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation activities
  - Attended the launch of Brock's inaugural Indigenous Strategic Plan on October 1
  - Hosted a fireside chat with Alex Usher on "Leading post-secondary education into the future: A conversation on managing transformational change" in Waterloo on October 1, with attendees from eight Ontario universities
  - Attended the Open Education Global satellite conference on October 7
  - Attended sessions at the Symposium on Antisemitism and provided welcoming remarks at the dinner reception
  - Attended the Ontario Council on University Lifelong Learning Summit at the Brock University Burlington campus on October 16, where I provided welcoming remarks
  - Participated in convocation on October 16
  - Co-hosted a virtual book launch for *A Research Agenda for Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity* edited by Dr. Rahul Kumar and Dr. Sarah Eaton on October 21, part of Academic Integrity Week
  - Attended the Lessons in Trust: Alternative Grading in the Age of AI workshop hosted by UBC from October 22-23
  - Attended select sessions of the virtual Open Education Conference from October 27-29, including participating in the closing keynote panel
  - Presented at AI-Cademy 2026, organized by Higher Education Strategy Associates and hosted at UBC from November 8-10