

# Memo

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To: Christene Carpenter Cleland, Chair, T&LPC

From: Rajiv Jhangiani, Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning

Date: October 12, 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 September 14 and October 12, 2023:

## Centre for Pedagogical Innovation

- Webinar Series on Assessment
  - The first webinar was held on September 26 on [Accessible Assessments and Universal Design for Learning](#) and led by [Dr. Ann Gagné](#)
  - The remaining webinars this term include:
    - [Assessment for Blended and Online Learning](#) led by [Dr. Brenna Clarke Gray](#), Thompson Rivers University, Monday October 30, 11am-12:30pm
    - [Assessments in the Age of Artificial Intelligence](#), led by [Dr. James M. Lang](#), The Chronicle of Higher Education, Monday November 13, 11am-12:30pm
    - Stay tuned for an exciting Winter 2024 webinar line up
- Learning Management System (Brightspace)
  - Brightspace Workshops:
    - CPI is offering Brightspace training on an ongoing basis, you can sign up for training on our [ExperienceBU page](#).
  - Getting in touch with CPI through Brightspace:
    - Instructors can now search Brock University's Brightspace knowledge base and contact CPI directly from a widget in the bottom right of the Brightspace homepage.
  - New in Brightspace:
    - [D2L has added Synchronous Quizzes to Brightspace](#). Instructors can create quizzes in Brightspace that students must take synchronously. This can allow for remote, synchronous or in-person classes to take quizzes in "real time" (at the same time). This feature offers less flexibility and accommodation than standard quizzing, where students can take a quiz in their own time (asynchronous).
  - Sakai:
    - Sakai transitioned into "warm storage" mode on September 27, 2023. If instructors need to recover additional information from Sakai, they will need to [contact the Centre for Pedagogical Innovation \(CPI\)](#) first. Sakai records will be kept as per Brock University's [LMS data retention schedule](#), however access will be more cumbersome after this change. Sakai will transition into "cold storage" in January, restricting the university to only "power on" the system for a maximum of three one-week periods per year.
  - YuJa Video:
    - Brock University's transition to the YuJa video platform is almost complete. Over 40,000 videos and captions have been imported from Echo360 and distributed to instructors and TAs. Instructors should see their August 2023 and earlier Echo360

videos in their YuJa library now. Next Echo360 videos embedded in Brightspace will be automatically replaced with their YuJa version before our agreement with Echo360 expires in December.

- Award for Distinguished Teaching - Deadline extended to November 10
  - The [Brock University Award for Distinguished Teaching](#) is presented annually to a faculty member who, in the opinion of their peers, has made an outstanding contribution to the teaching and learning environment at Brock University.
- Brock University-wide Teaching Awards – Due November 10
  - Application guidelines and eligibility criteria can be found on [the CPI website](#).
  - [Award for Excellence in Sessional Teaching](#)
  - [Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Large Classes](#)
  - [Award for Excellence in Teaching for Early Career Faculty](#)
- Academic Integrity Week – October 16-20
  - Join CPI and the Manager of Academic Integrity on October 19 from 1–2:30pm to talk about [Teaching with Integrity: Care and Trust in the Academy](#). We will host a series of roundtable discussions on generative AI in the classroom, ungrading, working with teaching assistants, experiential education, the role of reflection, and more.

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

- Experiential Education
  - EE iHUB innovation grant (\$100,000) secured by Jason Causarano, EEC in FMS, on West Nile Virus for BIOL 3P64 – see full details in email from Jason. This is one example of the over \$280,000 federal dollars secured this term - bringing the total amount of money secured for students since May 2023 up over 1 million dollars.
- [Laura Sabia Entrepreneurial Co-op Award](#)
  - Fatima Abourida, Computer Science Co-op student is selected as the inaugural recipient of the [Laura Sabia Entrepreneurial Co-op Award](#), which provides \$10,000 to support a four-month Entrepreneurship Co-op term for up to 5 woman-identifying students at Brock University in a co-op program per year. Entrepreneurship co-op is a collaboration between Co-op Education Office and LINC.
- Events
  - September 13-14: CPA Days for both Co-op & New Grad recruitment event with over 200 Accounting students in attendance;
  - September 21: New grad recruitment event “HireU,” with close to 300 students from across all Faculties in attendance.
- BSc AI Co-op program consultation
  - We are working with the faculty to understand co-op student needs in the field of artificial intelligence. This is an integral part of the consultation process for programs looking to integrate co-op into their degree offerings.

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

- Open Education Working Group
  - The adjudication of our second round of OER Adoption Grants is currently underway
- Advisory Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - This group met on September 27 and has drafted a statement concerning the use of AI detection tools

- Representatives of this group met with a Provincially-funded research group on October 5 to receive an overview of the preliminary findings of a survey of Ontario post-secondary educators experiences and perceptions of generative AI
- Learning Spaces Advisory Group
  - This group has met twice over this period and continues to consider classroom modernization proposals, with a particular focus on improving accessibility of our learning spaces
- Student Ombuds
  - The new Student Ombuds Advisory Committee was convened and met on September 20
- Discussions of requests to permit children of students into classrooms
  - Given the emergence of these requests across multiple Faculties, I engaged in preliminary discussions on this topic, including reviewing guidance previously provided by the university to colleagues in the Faculty of Education. This item is being brought to T&LPC for discussion.
- [College Student Success Innovation Centre \(CSSIC\) Research Fellowship at Mohawk College](#)
  - I have been working with the Acting AVP, Research to support faculty members interested in applying for this fellowship, for research that supports student success

### **Events and Presentations**

- I gave a workshop on Open Pedagogy for CPI staff on September 18
- I attended homecoming weekend events including the Steel Blade Classic on September 22, the Grande Parade and Brock Night at the Niagara Grape & Wine Festival on September 23, and the Badger Bazaar on September 24
- I attended meetings of Board committees and the Board of Trustees on September 27 and 28
- I attended events to mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, including the sunrise ceremony and flag raising on September 29 and the Brock Badgers men's lacrosse game and ceremony on September 30
- I visited the University of Manitoba on October 3 where I met with senior administrators, teaching and learning centre staff, and members of their open education working group before giving a [public lecture about open educational practices](#)
- I moderated a forum titled "Gen Zs, ChatGPT & the Future of Work: Time to Panic or Relax?" as part of the [2023 LIAM forum](#) on October 5