Memo

To: Christene Carpenter Cleland, Chair, T&LPC

From: Rajiv Jhangiani, Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning

Date: September 13, 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 May 12 and September 13, 2023:

Centre for Pedagogical Innovation
- Webinar Series on Assessment
    - In partnership with the Deans, CPI is pleased to host this new webinar series focusing on Assessment. Registration is now open.
    - [Accessible Assessments and Universal Design for Learning](#) led by [Dr. Ann Gagné](#), Brock University, Tuesday September 26, 11am-12:30pm
    - [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
- Guidance on Generative Artificial Intelligence
    - Given the evolving landscape of generative AI, CPI continues to update the [resource page on Generative AI](#) based-on input from the Advisory Group on Artificial Intelligence, the Academic Integrity Manager, and our colleagues across Canada. An additional section on [designing assessments to mitigate the use of AI writing tools was recently](#) added.
- Medical Self-Declaration Form
    - CPI has created a [resource document](#) for instructors interested in using Brightspace to track submission of medical self-declaration forms. These forms may be used by students experiencing short-term illness once per course per term.
- Brightspace
    - Our first term with Brightspace is going well. There are currently ~1300 active FW2023 sites. Brightspace allows labs and seminars to better share a single site with the lecture section, reducing the total number of sites students need to check for the same course.
    - We have hosted 18 drop-in sessions since the start of August and continue to respond to hundreds of inquiries through our E-Mail, phone and MS Teams-based support each month.
    - Brightspace's integration with BrockDB has been improved. Any action in BrockDB, including student enrollment movements and name changes, or instructor assignment changes, will be reflected in Brightspace in less than 90 minutes.
    - YuJa Video has also been deployed in Brightspace. Instructors should find that it closely matches the Echo360 functionality that they are familiar with, and the tool benefits from online video becoming more common place in our online lives. In the coming days instructors will see their Echo360 videos arrive in their YuJa Library. Before the end of the year Echo360 embeds will be automatically swapped for their YuJa equivalents.
- Educational Technology changes in the coming year:
    - CPI is seeking feedback about the following educational technologies:
        - Student Course Experience Surveys

- In the summer of 2024 Brock University's agreement with eXplorance, the provider of the "Blue" Software that powers our online Student Course Experience Surveys system, will expire. CPI will be working with the Procurement Office and will derive the requirements from the Faculty Handbook, Collective Agreements, and the current practice of the over-80% of programs that currently use the system. A renewal of the current system, or new system, will closely match the experience of the 159,974 surveys delivered in 2022.
    - Phrase Matching Software
        - In the summer of 2024 Brock University's agreement with Turnitin will expire. Much has changed since Brock University began using Turnitin two decades ago. CPI will be circulating a survey this Fall seeking feedback from instructors and students about their needs and opinions related to these automated tools for measuring the originality that FHB III.A.10.4 refers to as "phrase matching software."

- New Faculty Orientation
    - In partnership with the Office of the Provost, new faculty hired within the last 3 years were invited to attend an in-person orientation on August 29.
    - In addition, CPI partnered with the Office of Research Services to provide targeted outreach for online sessions in early August for new faculty hired for 2023-24.
- Teaching Day
    - On September 7, over 100 registrants signed up for Teaching Day. Workshops focused on accessibility, assessment, active learning, and inclusive teaching for instructors and teaching assistants. CPI offers 4 certificate programs: Foundational and Advanced Certificates for Teaching Assistants, Instructor Certificate, and the Graduate Teaching Assistant Practicum.
- Graduate Student Orientation
    - CPI participated in Brock's largest ever grad student orientation, with over 200 registrants. The event, hosted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Post-Doctoral Affairs, provided graduate students the opportunity to connect with the many services available to them on campus.
- Staffing Updates
    - In a partnership between Student Accessibility Services and CPI, we are delighted to welcome Senior Educational Developer, Accessibility and Inclusion, Dr. Ann Gagné (she/her) as the newest member to our team. Ann supports accessible pedagogical considerations in course, assessment, and learning activity design, as well as inclusive resource selection. She works to foster educational communities where lived experience of disability is acknowledged and supported.
    - Gareth Seymour has moved into the Educational Technologist position to continue his great work supporting instructional staff with Brightspace, MS Teams and related educational technologies, in addition to building our CPI's Knowledge Base.

    - CPI received an eCampusOntario Exchange grant to hire a recent graduate from an Ontario institution from August until February 2024. We are pleased to welcome Kosar Dakhilalian as an Educational Developer, Open Educational Resources. Kosar graduated from Brock University's master in Comparative Literature and Arts. Kosar has a background in Drama. In addition to being a TA at Dramatic Arts Department at Brock, she has a keen interest in performance and pedagogy. Kosar offers support and consultation

for open education and open educational resources (OER).
- o To support scholarship of teaching and learning, including research related to support CPI's work with Senate teaching and learning policy, Oya Pakkal has joined CPI part-time as a Research Associate. Oya was the Teaching Assistant Award winner for 2023. She has successfully defended her Masters in Psychology and is beginning her PhD at Brock.
- o All CPI staff information can be found on our [contact page](#).

Co-op, Career, and Experiential Education (CCEE)
- Experiential Education Faculty Champions
    - o This past month we welcomed Brock's new Experiential Education Faculty Champions:
        - Teresa Russo (Faculty of Humanities)
        - Laura Cousens (Faculty of Applied Health Sciences)
        - Sandra Della Porta (Faculty of Education)
        - Dave Bouckenooghe (Goodman School of Business)
        - Kate Cassidy (Faculty of Social Sciences)
    - o We also thank the outgoing, inaugural group of EE Faculty Champions that served over the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Work-Integrated Learning Bursaries
    - o In the Spring/Summer, Brock launched a [university-wide bursary](#) to support students who face barriers in participating in Work-Integrated Learning programs. The funds are on a first-come, first-serve basis. This $500,000 bursary program has been going strong throughout the summer months. Applications for Fall are open, and we are presently experiencing a good volume of applications.
- Co-operative Education
    - o Co-operative Education is currently working with students seeking employment for the winter work term (January – April). They are also supporting students who have just entered their work term from September to December. The onboarding of new co-op students into the workforce, alongside working with students to secure work terms for the winter, is an exceptionally busy time as we also enter the busiest time of year for on-campus recruitment.
- Career Education Classroom Engagement
    - o We now have a [menu of resources for instructors](#) seeking to embed career education into their courses.
- Upcoming Events
    - o September 13/14: CPA Days, when we welcome over 30 accounting firms to campus to meet with Brock talent for co-op and full-time positions.
    - o September 21: Brock HireU, when we welcome employers for a morning meet and greet with students from across campus. Employers from the Blue Jays, Mars, Enterprise and other well-known organizations will be on campus to recruit student talent at this event.

Other notable projects/initiatives
- Academic Plan Implementation
    - o I have been working with departments and colleagues across the university to develop implementation plans for each of the Academic Plan's 44 goals. In many cases, implementation is already underway.
- BC Ethical Ed Tech Working Group
    - o I was invited by the British Columbia Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to serve as a member of a yearlong working group on ethical educational

technologies. I participated in the first two meetings over the spring and summer. Involvement in these efforts will support and inform the development of a framework for ethical educational technologies at Brock, one of the goals of our Academic Plan.

- Open Education Working Group
  - This advisory group to the Provost continues to meet monthly. In addition to promoting the second round of OER Adoption Grant applications (due September 25) we have been developing a detailed implementation plan for the following goal in the Academic Plan:
    - 2i: Support the creation, adaptation, and adoption of open educational resources
- Course Materials Working Group
  - This advisory group to the Provost continues to meet monthly. In addition to identifying areas of collaboration between CPI, the Library, and the Campus Store, we have been developing a detailed implementation plan for the following goal in the Academic Plan:
    - 2h: Streamline the processes by which students access learning materials and maximize the use of library resources for course support
- Advisory Group on Artificial Intelligence
  - This advisory group to the Provost has met monthly since it was created in late June. This group includes 15 faculty members and professional librarians, all of whom have expertise in specific areas related to artificial intelligence. The initial focus of this diverse group has been on guidance concerning artificial intelligence in the context of teaching and learning. Part of this work has involved members of the group reviewing and informing CPI's guidance on instructors, which has been highlighted earlier in this report.
- Learning Spaces Advisory Group
  - This advisory group to the Provost continues to meet monthly to consider proposals for classroom modernization projects. Projects advanced in recent months include the amalgamation of 18-seat seminar room MCC C401 and office MCC C402 to create a 30-seat seminar classroom, amalgamation of lounge MCD D302 and 18-seat seminar room MCC D303 to create a 30-seat seminar classroom, a refresh of WH 305 to replace the projector, add a confidence monitor, and update the furniture, audio-visual and IT upgrades to STH 201, and an additional white board added to WH208 in response to requests from faculty members. Additional projects are being reviewed at present, with the understanding that large renovation projects can only be scheduled over the Spring/Summer months.
  - In addition, the group is helping to advance a) accessibility in teaching and learning, including through an accessibility audit of all Brock classrooms; b) the evaluation of the use of our existing learning spaces; and c) learning from advances in learning spaces at other post-secondary institutions.
- Student Ombuds
  - I meet regularly with the Student Ombuds to provide support on behalf of the university to this important, independent, and impartial office. Heather Bellisario, our new Student Ombuds since May 2023, has been working hard to support students while also streamlining the intake process, enhancing communications, and ensuring proper record keeping for case management.
- OE Global Board (June 2023)
  - I was elected to serve a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the non-profit Open Education Global organization, which works to advance equitable access to education worldwide.

Events and Presentations

- I gave an invited plenary address at the Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science on May 26 in Washington, DC
- I attended the Spring Hybrid Workshop of the BC Educational Technology Users Group on June 1
- I attended convocation ceremonies throughout the week of June 12-16
- I gave a keynote address on "The Web that Is" at the Reclaim Open conference in Fredericksburg, Virginia on June 7
- I attended meetings of the Board of Trustees and Board committees on June 28 and 29
- I attended and spoke at New Faculty Orientation on August 29
- I attended the President's Welcome Back Barbecue on August 31
- I supported Residence Move-in weekend on September 2 and 3
- I attended international student orientation on September 3
- I attended the Off Campus Living Barbecue on September 3
- I attended the New Student Welcome, Faculty of Graduate Studies Orientation, and Co-op Student Orientation, and spoke at the student orientation for the Social Justice and Equity Studies program on September 5.
- I attended and spoke at CPI's Teaching Day for instructors and teaching assistants, as well as the BIPOC community social on September 7.
- I attended a magnificent Indigenous dance performance titled "Homelands," as part of the Celebration of Nations where Brock was a sponsor, on September 8.
- I have been invited to give a virtual talk on ethical educational technologies at Michigan State University on September 25.
- I have been invited to give a talk on open educational practices at the University of Manitoba on October 3.
- I will present scholarship on open educational practices at the annual Open Education Global conference on October 16-18.
- I have been invited to give the opening virtual keynote address at the 20th annual Open Education Conference on November 7, 2023.