

UNIVERSITY LEARNING CENTRE

STATUS REPORT

<http://www.usask.ca/ulc>

The University Learning Centre (ULC) is an umbrella organization that allies with two other Centres, the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, and the Centre for Discovery in Learning. Besides these two allied centres, the ULC operates a unit dedicated to supporting Student Academic Achievement as well as a unit dedicated to Curriculum and Instructional Development.

Mission: In 2007, the University of Saskatchewan created the University Learning Centre, a new unit with a mission *to transform teaching and foster learning*.

Goals and objectives of the centre: The University Learning Centre has initiated numerous programs to support and enhance teaching and learning and is an active advocate for exemplary practices and innovations in teaching and learning on campus and beyond.

Addressing the teaching and learning needs of both instructors and students, the ULC works collaboratively with colleges, departments, and administrative units to coordinate and, where appropriate, conduct programs and initiatives that:

- complement and augment existing efforts in teaching and learning,
- enhance student success,
- yield research opportunities, and
- support University-wide goals to improve the student experience and to deliver high quality educational programs.

Types of activities undertaken to achieve mandate: The University Learning Centre offers students help in writing, mathematics, and statistics, learning strategies, and support in selected introductory courses that are considered especially challenging. The ULC offers support for faculty and departments developing community service-learning or other experiential learning initiatives. The ULC also offers a learning communities program, helping students in large classes break into smaller cohorts of classmates with common schedules and common interests. These communities are augmented with a weekly seminar on topics of interest to the students. The ULC has partnered with other units including the Libraries, Information Technology Services,

Disability Services for Students, and Food Services to create a Learning Commons where students, staff and faculty can congregate to work, study, collaborate and learn.

Governance:

Reporting to the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, the ULC is led by the Centre Director, Professor Jim Greer. A ULC Advisory board consisting of leaders of other academic support unit (EMAP, CCDE, Library) as well as associate deans academic from various colleges and representative from selected committees of Council. Within the ULC there is a staff Program Director for the Student Academic Achievement unit (Gina Koehn), a staff Program Director for the Curriculum and Instructional Design unit (TBA) and an E-Learning Coordination Director (Frank Bulk). Two affiliate Centres, the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness (GMCTE) and the Centre for Discovery in Learning (CDL), also report to the ULC Director. The GMCTE is managed by a staff Program Director (Brad Wuetherick) and the CDL is led by a seconded faculty Director (Marcel D'Eon).

Leadership of University Learning Centre

- Director: Jim Greer, Professor of Computer Science
 - ULC Executive:
 - o Program Director for the Student Academic Achievement unit (Gina Koehn)
 - o Program Director for the Curriculum and Instructional Design unit (TBA)
 - o E-Learning Coordination Director (Frank Bulk)
 - o Program Director for Faculty Development GMCTE (Brad Wuetherick)
 - o Director of CDL (Marcel D'Eon)
- Advisory Board consists of
 - Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning
 - Chair plus two members from the Teaching and Learning Committee of Council
 - Associate/Assistant Deans Academic from all Colleges, including the College of Graduate Studies and Research
 - Associate Dean (Undergraduate Affairs), College of Arts and Science, plus one additional Vice-Dean from Arts and Science appointed by the Dean
 - Dean, University Library or designate
 - Two University Master Teachers, to be selected by the Master Teachers' group
 - Associate Vice-President, Student and Enrolment Services
 - Director, Student Support, Retention and Development, SESD
 - Director, Educational Media Access and Production Services
 - Executive Director, Centre for Continuing and Distance Education
 - Director, Information Technology Services

- Two graduate students appointed by the Graduate Students' Association
- Two undergraduate students, one appointed by the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union and one by the ULC's Peer Assisted Learning program
- The University Learning Centre's Director, the Program Director of the Student Achievement unit, the Program Director for the Gwenna Moss Centre, and the Director of the Centre for Distributed Learning shall serve as ex-officio members.