

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
REQUEST FOR INPUT

PRESENTED BY: Richard Long, Chair,
Teaching & Learning Committee of Council

DATE OF MEETING: December 17, 2009

SUBJECT: **University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter
consultation draft**

COUNCIL ACTION: For input only

Background

The Teaching and Learning Foundational Document (TLFD), approved by Council in December 2008, proposes that the university develop a document that links the values and learning principles identified in the TLFD to the expectations about the learning experience that students can expect to receive during their studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Following approval of the TLFD, the Teaching & Learning Committee of Council (TLCC) agreed to research this issue and develop an appropriate document.

The Teaching & Learning Committee reviewed a large number of documents on student rights and responsibilities from this university and others. We noted that the University of Saskatchewan already has approved various documents which deal with academic conduct and learning goals, but that none of these are located within an integrated framework that focuses on optimizing the student learning experience.

We agreed that the University of Saskatchewan would benefit from developing a document about rights and responsibilities for learning which would serve as a framework for organizing policies, programs and services that affect the student learning experience. We also agreed that it was important to strive to produce a succinct and clearly written document which could be distributed widely to our students, faculty and staff that would serve to communicate the commitments and responsibilities of all parties in optimizing the learning experience received by students at the University of Saskatchewan.

Why a “Learning Charter”?

The terminology of “Learning Charter” was developed by the TLCC as a more useful terminology than a “bill of rights” (one of the terms proposed in the TLFD) because it is more consistent with our conception that effective learning results from a partnership for learning between students, instructors and the university.

Content

The University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter is grounded by the values and principles enunciated in the Teaching and Learning Foundational Document, and informed by the “Guidelines for Academic Conduct” approved by University Council in 1999. It references other key documents including the Standards for academic and non-academic conduct.

The Learning Charter defines aspirations about the learning experience that the University of Saskatchewan aims to provide for our students, and the roles to be played in realizing these aspirations by all parties in the learning partnership. The overarching goal of the Learning Charter is to optimize the learning experience of every student at the University of Saskatchewan.

The Learning Charter draft document consists of two main parts. First, it defines the core learning goals that the University of Saskatchewan aspires to for all of our graduates. Second, the Charter defines expectations, in terms of commitments and responsibilities, for the roles that all parties to the learning partnership -- students, faculty and instructional staff, and the broader university community -- need to play in achieving the core learning goals and the learning experience to which we aspire.

A graphic representation of the Learning Charter components and intent has also been developed as a visual display and reference, to reinforce the concept of the learning experience as a partnership between students, instructors and the university.

Consultation

The Teaching and Learning Committee of Council is planning a broad consultation process for the Learning Charter draft, including distribution to university offices, colleges and departments, discussions at the Undergraduate Forum and with the USSU and GSA, and presentation at the University Senate. We plan to revise the document according to the feedback we receive, and bring it back to Council for approval in the spring of 2010.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Learning Charter Consultation Draft](#) (December 1, 2009) attached separately.