

**Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning
of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee
21st meeting held on Tuesday, 28 October 2008
from 10:00 to 12:00
in James Administration Building – Room 310**

Present: M. Mendelson (Chair), B. Baker, J. Clark, A. Costopoulos, A. Jaeger, R. Gtber 2008

Clickers should primarily be used for increasing student engagement and formative assessment (giving feedback to students about their learning). When used in this way, some professors find it motivational to attach a small percentage of grades to their use. The discussion revolved around an acceptable threshold for the percentage of a grade assigned to clicker use.

Action: The document should be revised so that the technological and pedagogical advantages and disadvantages are highlighted separately. A draft recommendation should also be developed. Based on this, the committee does not endorse the use of clickers for exams. If clickers are used as part of the evaluation for a course, then this should be a minor

Phase 2 – University- wide event: The main goal of the event is to showcase McGill professors who already integrate teaching and research/scholarship in an exemplary fashion, and bring in an expert (e.g., Mick Healey) to help develop our institutional language and understanding. This event would probably be

The Director asked for comments from the committee concerning the form of recognition that should accompany this award.

Comments/clarification:

- One question was whether it had been intentional that no mention was made of tenure/non tenure. Professor Weston responded that it was intentionally written to be inclusive. The Chair suggested that this be written explicitly.
- Does it have to be one award per year? Could it be awarded to 2 outstanding people retiring in one year? Could a case be made on a “need basis?” This will have budget implications.
- What is the threshold for number of years teaching at McGill? It was suggested that 15-20 years be the minimum.
- The 25 year threshold excludes a lot of people. What about Emeritus professors?
- How much would the award be worth? \$10K was suggested.

TLS will make revisions and will move this forward with the Chair.

Action: The Chair and Director of TLS will follow up on Principal’s Award and bring it to APG.

9. SCTL Report to APC 2007-08 and plans for 2008-09

The Chair presented the SCTL Report that will be brought to APC. He stated that there were 3 main items that SCTL discussed last year – 1) Course Evaluation and Implementation; 2) Teaching Awards and 3) the Nexus Between Research and Teaching and these will be moved forward to APC for approval.

The question was raised why some other reports received by the Committee were not on this list (e.g., Enhancing Student Engagement). The Chair explained that these are unit reports that do not necessarily go to APC. It was felt that there were some interesting discussions during the year that do not get adequately circulated. The Chair suggested that the Committee look for ways to spread the word.

Action: A paragraph will be added to the SCTL Report to APC as follows:

“SCTL also received regular reports from, and provided advice to, Teaching and Learning Services, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and Student Services related to initiatives that impact teaching and learning at McGill.”

Action: The next Agenda should include an item regarding mechanisms to move SCTL discussions forward in the University.

10. Other Business

11. Adjournment : 11:45 am

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