

TLRC (2023-2024)

Date: 10 November, 2023


Facilitator: Yogesh More (Chair)

Note taker: Renu Balyan

Attendees: Yogesh More, Shebuti Rayana, Renu Balyan, Katarzyna (Kasia) Platt, Svetlana Jovic, Fernando Espinoza, Kyle Anderson

The agenda and the agenda link:

<https://github.com/morey-ow/tlrc23-24/blob/master/2023-2024%20Records/meetings/2023-11-10/agenda.md>

1. Approve minutes from the previous meeting (Oct 27, 2023)
2. Discuss the Call for interim TLC director, a draft  [Call for interim TLC director.docx](#)
3. Respecting religious differences: Faculty Senate Chair Kyle Anderson to join us to give more information on the request from Cheryl.
4. Flyer for Dec 6 ChatGPT event
5. Events for next semester

Minutes of the Meeting:

1. Approve minutes from previous meetings

The minutes from October 27, 2023 were approved with acclimation.

2. Call for Interim Director for TLC

Went back to the draft for the TLC director and discussed the concerns such as:

- The department will be on a deficit
- Will faculty have time to take up all the tasks
- Will the faculty have the required skillset
- Will the faculty be required to be 4-5 days on campus
- Change in management and how the new provost takes it
- Hire someone from outside rather than within
- May solicit application for people on as well as off campus
- If the director comes from faculty there could be a written commitment that a director will be hired soon, but some members stated that these commitments do not hold up and what if something similar happens in this case as well.
- The 3-year ramp up period is to just get started and search for a suitable person in the meantime
- With an interim faculty as a director the position could be forced to take up the position in case a faculty does not have sufficient courses to teach
- We should not do until the new provost arrives as there have been instances in the past that commitments are not kept

- There is a faculty who may be interested in the position but looking at the concerns it may be not be the best option to move ahead
- Amend the vision so that we clearly state that the Director be hired from outside
- The decisions generally depend on the budget, is the budget available for a new hire?
- Funding and sustaining the position will be a problem in case we are depending upon grants for it.
- The senate chair can discuss the above concerns with the provost in an upcoming meeting
- We need to hold off the Director Call unless there is clarity on what needs to be done

3. Respecting religious differences: Faculty Senate Chair Kyle Anderson joined us to give more information on the request from Cheryl

- Concerns among students related to cultural sensitivity from classroom
- A faculty presented image of Prophet Mohamed and the student was not entertained well when met the faculty regarding the concern and that added to complaints from several other related areas/concerns from the Muslim community on campus
- If the TLRC thinks that we could benefit from this conversation related to cultural sensitivity in classrooms and religious revival on campus, we can have an event about this
- If we as TLRC do not do this then it should not be a problem
- If not doing anything is an option, then prefer not to do it, as doing it may create some concerns among other community members
- Some issues can be resolved on a one-on-one basis rather than making it an institutional issue. Sometimes even faculty face these concerns of hostility from students and goes through some tough situation

4. Flyer for December 06, 2023 Event (scheduled in NAB 2034)

The event was earlier scheduled for Nov 15, 2023 but due to provost interviews it was moved to December 06, 2023.

5. Next semester events:

Getting to Tenure Workshop, joint with ARPT and UUP

Svetlana: AI and project-based learning

Ed Bever: Regular and Sustentive Interactions in Distance Classes

Federal Regulators have been focusing on this in the past few years, and we need to do what we can to make sure our faculty are aware of the issue and running their courses in compliance. Also, it enhances the educational experience for students in online courses, and one of the remedial measures called for in last year's 5 Year Assessment of the Distance Program was "promoting steps to incorporate course management and teaching practices that heighten ... students' connections with their instructors." (p. 30)

Renu: Involve students who can share with faculty how they are using AI

Shebuti: External academia expert for Responsible use of AI

Kasia: Talk with students for best practices for Office hours (zoom, in-person, emails etc.) as things have changed after the pandemic. Student-faculty communication

Cheryl Wilson/ Kyle Anderson: Respecting Religious Differences

“I’m reaching out to offer a topic for consideration for TLRC – culturally-responsive pedagogy, particularly in the area of respect for religious differences. Some concerns have arisen recently from students, which has prompted me to reach out to see if this might be a welcome topic for our faculty.”

The committee based on some concerns and discussions agreed not to hold an event related to religious differences.

6. Review tasks to do & who is doing them:

- Shebuti and Renu will work on the flyer and ordering snacks for the December 06 event

Other Comments and discussions:

- Having a discord channel may be helpful for student-teacher communication
- The faculty should be careful of meeting with students out of office hours and you may end up doing more than you are expected to
- Faculty was not paid to advise prospective students, during summer advising happens and some are paid and others are not, which complicates things
- It’s not illegal to work for free but one should not be expected or required to do it. Some untenured faculty feel obligated to do some service during the summer just out of fear
- Educate members (faculty) about how to resist if they are not paid and the admin, chairs, deans also need to be involved in the conversation
- Few faculty even sometimes end up working during the sabbatical (attending meetings etc.) and get no credit for it or compensated for it
- May need an event to discuss the issues about setting boundaries else other work especially research suffers when there are no boundaries