

PEW FACULTY TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AY 2016-2017 MIDYEAR REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- FTLAC has **completed** its work on charges pertaining to improving access to scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) resources on the FTLC website; investigating ways to promote best practices for academic integrity; and investigating the current system of FTLC travel grant awards.
- FTLAC has **begun and will continue work** on charges related to collecting data about class sizes and providing FTLC training opportunities for effective teaching in large classes; in drafting potential Faculty Handbook language to promote high-quality SoTL research; and investigating forums for GVSU faculty to publish their SoTL research.
- FTLAC will **begin work in Winter semester** on charges involving standardization of peer review of teaching. Additionally, the involvement of Robert Talbert (FTLCAC chair) in the UPLIFT task force that will convene in Winter semester will constitute most of FTLAC's work in the charge relating to interpretation of LIFT evaluation data.

PROGRESS ON AY 2016-2017 CHARGES

Charge	Progress
1(a): Continue to assist the FTLC staff to execute goals for the 2016-17 academic year, with special emphasis on promoting the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). For example, a. Provide a link to SoTL resources on the FTLC website.	FTLCAC consulted with Christine Rener to develop improvements to the existing links to SoTL resources that were already at the FTLC website. As a result, there is now a "Scholarship of Teaching and Learning" link in the top-level "Resources" menu at the FTLC website that links to a page of SoTL resources. (This page was already there, but the link to get to it is now much easier to find.) We consider this charge complete.
1(b): Provide a forum for faculty to publish their GVSU-specific SoTL work.	At the start of the year, FTLAC had plans to develop an open-source online platform for GVSU faculty to publish learning items from their courses (labs, syllabi, rubrics, etc.) using the Scholarworks system. It became apparent that setting up a fully-functional platform was beyond our resources at this time, and so we are currently looking for ways to use Scholarworks in a more incremental way for faculty SoTL publishing. We will be working on this in Winter semester.
1(c): Draft sample Faculty Handbook language to promote high-quality SoTL at GVSU; this draft should be shared first with FPPC for feedback and suggestions and ultimately with ECS.	FTLCAC has discussed the nature and potential wording of this handbook language and has done a thorough investigation of similar language in the faculty handbooks of GVSU's peer and aspiration institutions. We will be working on this in Winter semester with a goal of having specific language ready to share with ECS by Spring Break.
2: Investigate ways to promote best practices for academic integrity, especially for online courses, and make recommendations to ECS.	The FTLC created online training modules regarding academic integrity, especially for online courses, last academic year. For example: https://goo.gl/5OADEu We consider this charge complete with the exception of making recommendations to ECS, which we will likely do in our final report.

Charge	Progress
3(a): Support the implementation of LIFT recommendations, in particular: Provide interpretation for the first year's data	FTLCAC's work on this charge will come through Robert Talbert (chair) and his upcoming work with the UPLIFT (University Policies for LIFT) task force that will convene in Winter semester. Robert will report back to FTLCAC on a regular basis and solicit and communicate FTLCAC's input.
3(b): Make recommendations for standardizing peer review of teaching. If such recommendations include Faculty Handbook language, the language should be shared first with FPPC for feedback and suggestions and ultimately with ECS.	Nothing has been done with this charge yet aside from looking at a peer review form for online courses created by the Online Education Committee. We will be working on this in Winter semester.
4: Investigate the rationale for and publicity of the recent changes to FTLC travel grant applications, and report on the consequences of the new lottery system.	FTLCAC has monitored the travel grant application and award procedures during the Fall semester round of grant awards for issues involving the recent changes to the application process. The committee believes that publicity of the process and changes to the process has been sufficient, and no negative consequences inherent in the system have been found. A report from Kathryn Stieler (FTLC Grants program facilitator) can be found here: https://goo.gl/Ni6qRG We consider this charge complete.
5: Collect data regarding class sizes, and use the data to advocate for smaller class sizes and/or work with FTLC to develop trainings for teaching large classes effectively.	FTLCAC met with Philip Batty (Institutional Analysis) on December 12 to determine research questions that will be the subject of our data collection during Winter semester. We will be working on this in Winter semester as we collect institutional data and determine how FTLC can help address effective teaching in large classes.
6: To improve student retention, work with FTLC to develop "first day/every day" trainings as suggested by several faculty members at the 2015 Faculty Forum.	FTLCAC has requested clarification on the meaning of "first day/every day trainings". We will revisit the charge when the clarification has been received.
7: Advise FTLC on ways to support the unique professional development needs of unit heads and emerging leaders.	Christine Rener is conferring with unit heads and other "emerging leaders" to ascertain their needs with respect to professional development. We will be working on this in Winter semester when Dr. Rener has reported her findings back to the committee.

PLANNED AGENDA ITEMS FOR WINTER SEMESTER:

- January 23: Write specific research questions for Charge 5 and begin gathering data.
- February 13: Writing session to draft language for Charge 1(c); Christine Rener report on Charge 7
- March 13: Writing session to draft language for Charge 3(b); action on Charge 1(b)
- April 10: Finish up unfinished business and elect chair for 2017-2018.