

**Grand Valley State University
Faculty Teaching and Learning Center Advisory Committee (FTLCAC)
2015–2016 End of Year Report**

To: Karen Gipson, Chair of ECS/UAS
Felix Ngassa, Vice-Chair of ECS/UAS

From: Robert Talbert, FTLCAC Chair

Date: April 1, 2016

FTLCAC Membership, 2015–2016

- CLAS: Janet Vigna (BIO), David Zwart (HIS), Robert Talbert (MTH, chair), Andrew Korich (CHE)
- Seidman College of Business: Vijay Gondhalekar/Bruce Bettinghaus
- College of Community and Public Service: Jamie Langlois (through March; see endnotes)
- College of Education: Cathy Meyer-Looze
- Pandas College of Engineering and Computing: Mostafa El-Said
- College of Health Professions: Julia VanderMolen
- Kirkhof College of Nursing: Barb Hooper
- Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies: Gordon Alderink/Danielle Lake
- University Libraries: Matthew Reidsma
- Pew FTLC: Christine Renner
- Student representative: Maria Beelen
- Ex officio: Matt Roberts, IDeL

Academic Year 2015–2016 Charges

1. **Continue to assist the FTLC staff to execute goals for the 2015-16 academic year, with special emphasis on**
 - A. **Promoting the scholarship of teaching, in particular investigating possible disconnects between the Faculty Handbook and unit expectations;**
 - At an early meeting, the committee held a broad discussion about perceived barriers to engagement in the scholarship of teaching and learning. One such barrier raised was the lack of a simple means of getting started in SoTL research. One idea that emerged from this discussion was to create an open-access “journal” consisting of classroom artifacts such as group activities, syllabi, etc., contributed by GVSU faculty, that would be peer-evaluated and published in a database form online. At the November meeting the committee met with Matt Ruen and Jacklyn Rander (GVSU Libraries) to discuss how ScholarWorks could be used as a platform for this journal. An *ad hoc* committee was formed to pursue the creation of the journal and has met once to flesh out plans for further work on this idea in the next academic year. We intend for this to be a major focus of work in the next academic year.
 - Another barrier to doing SoTL research that was identified was the perception that academic units may not “count” research in teaching and learning toward promotion and tenure considerations, at least to the same degree that disciplinary-specific research counts. During the Winter semester meetings, committee members researched their own

units' language on the scholarship of teaching and learning as it relates to promotion and tenure and we found broad variation between colleges and units. The committee then did research to assemble a body of materials that can be used to promote SoTL research to unit heads and to new faculty. The committee is creating a set of standardized language that any unit can add into its promotion and tenure criteria regarding SoTL research.

B. Investigating ways to promote best practices for academic integrity, especially for online courses.

- At the October 12, 2015 meeting we hosted Aaron Haight (Vice Provost, Dean of Students Office) who has been the point person for academic integrity issues at GVSU. Aaron discussed current issues about academic integrity on campus to set the stage for addressing this charge.
- Christine Rener (FTLC Director) is using the outcomes of the meeting with Aaron Haight to develop FTLC case study materials on best practices for academic integrity, including online courses, with the intent of placing these case studies online for faculty to access.

2. Support the implementation of USETI recommendations.

- The committee monitored the ongoing discussions in UAS and other venues throughout the year regarding the USETI recommendations. As the USETI recommendations will only be implemented for the first time at the end of this semester, we have not had the opportunity to offer support, but we remain ready to do so in the upcoming academic year.

3. Continue to assist the FTLC staff with considering ways to improve the process for FTLC grants.

- The Grant Subcommittee successfully went through two rounds of grant determinations and awards this year using a newly revamped system. After each round, the committee as a whole has discussed any issues that have arisen from the new system. Aside from some cases where the new system needed to be explained more fully to a few applicants, no issues were reported.

4. Confer with the appropriate committees in KCON and CHP to recommend to FTLC best practices for teaching with simulations, and make recommendations regarding transferable practices to other colleges and units.

- The Chair met with Jean Nagelkirk (Vice Provost for Health) and Doris French (KCON Director of Simulation) on November 10, 2015 to discuss KCON and CHP's use of simulations in teaching and to tour their facilities.
- Doris French met with the full FTLCAC on January 11, 2016 to help isolate best practices that could be transferable to other colleges and units.
- A statement regarding transferable practices to other colleges and units was drafted and approved at the committee's meeting on February 8, 2016.

5. Advise FTLC on ways to support the unique professional development needs of unit heads and emerging leaders.

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- 6. **In an effort to engage more faculty in our shared governance system, prepare a 1-2 page mid-year progress report at the end of the Fall semester to be posted on the FTLCAC website and disseminated to ECS/UAS and College Deans. (A full report is expected as usual at the end of the year.)**
 - The mid-year progress report was submitted in December 2015. (<http://bit.ly/22VpFNb>)