SENATE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE (SLTC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) is to oversee the approval of academic regulations, establish policies and priorities in relation to the teaching and learning environment, monitor the students' educational experience, and establish policies in relation to academic and non-academic appeals and disciplinary processes. Supporting Senate's principles and values, SLTC's decisions must: (i) enhance the quality of teaching conducted at the university; (ii) support diversity as is required both by considerations of justice and to sustain rich and rigorous debate; (iii) advance the idea that human diversity provides essential elements of strength, resilience and innovation; (iv) promote the idea that inclusiveness must inform decisions at all levels; and (v) reflect and respect the diversity of human experiences and backgrounds. As such, SLTC will rigorously adhere to these principles and values by applying equity (the **practice** of identifying and removing barriers) in all its deliberations and activities to ensure an inclusive outcome.

Equity diversity and inclusion (EDI) measures strive to reduce systemic barriers and biases experienced by historically and currently underrepresented and equity-deserving groups[1]. Differing views, ideas and approaches, and equitable and inclusive practices help promote teaching and learning excellence. Engagement with that multiplicity of perspectives creates critical thinkers.

Definitions

1. Diversity is the **condition** of having a broad range of differences, represented in its people, perspectives, policies, programs and practice.

2. Inclusion is **an outcome** where community members experience equal access to opportunities for education, employment, promotion and success in the Faculty and a sense of belonging and engagement in the life and work of the institution.

3. Equity is **a process** that takes diversity and differences into account through fair and non-discriminatory approaches and practices, removing barriers[2] to ensure inclusion.

[1] Equity-deserving Groups: female-identified individuals, individuals of Indigenous ancestry (and particularly Mi'kmaq individuals), racialized individuals (and particularly African Nova Scotian), person with (dis)abilities, and individuals who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+.

[2] Dis)ability is a central element of any discussions about oppression linked to race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion etc.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. Ex Officio Voting Members

a) Senate Vice-Chair (Student Affairs) (Committee Chair)
b) Chair of Senate
c) Provost and Vice-President, Academic (or designate, Associate Vice-President, Academic)
d) Dean of Libraries

2. Elected Voting Members

6 faculty members, no fewer than 3 of whom shall be Elected Academic Unit Senators, and each of whom shall be from a different Faculty.

3. Student Voting Members

2 Student Senators appointed by the Dalhousie Student Union.

4. Non-Voting Members

a) Secretary of Senate;
b) Vice-Provost, Equity & Inclusion (or designate, Assistant Vice-Provost, Equity & Inclusion); and
c) Such additional members as determined by the Senate Planning and Governance Committee from time to time, with particular attention to representation from equity-deserving groups not currently represented.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senate Learning and Teaching Committee is responsible for the following:

1. Oversight of Academic Regulations

a) Reviewing new academic regulations that appear in the University calendar and their amendments, and making recommendations to Senate concerning their adoption;

b) Approving academic regulations referred to in section 1(a) where delegated by Senate to do so;

c) Monitoring the development of Faculty-level academic regulations, policies and procedures, and making recommendations or providing direction as appropriate;

d) Making recommendations to Senate concerning academic dress and University ceremonial, and approving rules and regulations on these matters where delegated by Senate to do so; and

e) Fixing the academic dates for each academic year as delegated by Senate.

2. Quality Assurance of Learning and Teaching

a) Recommending to Senate the adoption of policies and procedures to advance teaching and learning;

b) Ensuring that such policies have incorporated inclusive excellence principles;

c) Recommending to Senate the adoption of policies and procedures for student ratings of instruction or other forms of evaluation of faculty teaching;

d) Developing and overseeing the implementation of a University-wide strategy for the promotion of academic integrity in learning and teaching; and

e) Approving the terms of reference for teaching awards granted by the University as delegated by Senate.

3. Monitoring the Students' Educational Experience

a) Reviewing quantitative and qualitative data from internal and external sources on student engagement and the student educational experience, and making recommendations to Senate concerning same;

b) Reviewing student attrition and retention data, and making recommendations to Senate concerning same; and

c) Recommending to Senate the adoption of programs or practices to enhance the student educational experience.

4. Academic and Non-Academic Appeals and Disciplinary Processes

a) Recommending to Senate the adoption of policies, procedures and guidelines governing academic integrity and non-academic student conduct issues, including the discipline of students who fail to achieve established standards of conduct;

b) Recommending to Senate the adoption of policies, procedures and guidelines concerning academic appeals by students;

c) Recommending to Senate the adoption of policies, procedures and guidelines concerning appeals from Faculty decisions to suspend or dismiss students by reason of professional unsuitability; and

5. Other Tasks

a) Taking whatever action is required to fulfill the mandate of this Committee; and

b) Executing other tasks as directed by Senate.

Approved by Senate March 9, 2011
Amended by Senate June 9, 2014,
Amended by Senate February 8, 2021
Amended by Senate September 13, 2021

Appendix A

Motion Approved by Senate – September 24, 2018

THAT Senate delegate to SLTC, the responsibility to approve routine, non-substantial decisions as they relate to the following Senate responsibilities:

1.2 (k) To approve the contents of academic regulations published in the academic calendars

1.2 (n) To fix the academic dates for each academic year

1.2 (r) To make rules and regulations for academic dress and University ceremonial

1.2 (s) To approve terms of reference for teaching awards granted by the University

1.2 (u) In relation to any of the foregoing, to appoint such committees, working groups or other bodies as it may deem desirable and to specify the terms of reference of any such committees.