

Director's Report to the Task Force on Teaching Excellence
University of North Carolina, Pembroke
Sept. 16, 2021

Our Mission: Through mentoring, sharing best practices, and connecting with the community, the Teaching & Learning Center develops and sustains the ideas, activities, enthusiasm, and culture that foster and recognize quality teaching and learning at the University of North Carolina, Pembroke.

Our Vision: The Teaching & Learning Center will aspire to achieve quality in instruction by identifying, cultivating, and putting into practice effective and innovative pedagogies. Increasing faculty participation in all efforts and utilizing technology to our advantage, the TLC will enhance support for and unite faculty, students, and staff in enriching teaching and learning.

Our Core Values:

- We believe in supporting all faculty as they develop themselves into highly effective instructors and mentors, able to foster the success of all students as lifelong learners.
- We believe in fostering collaboration, communication, and community.
- We believe in assuring confidentiality in individualized consultations.
- We believe in prioritizing on-campus expertise and resources while connecting with external expertise and resources as needed.
- We believe in utilizing effective technology for the betterment of teaching and learning.

Our Goals:

- The TLC will aspire to achieve quality in instruction through effective and innovative pedagogies.
- The TLC will enhance support for faculty, students, and staff in enriching teaching and learning.
- The TLC will unite faculty, students, and staff in enriching teaching and learning.

Administrative:

- Although the provost's office has offered a course release (for a 2/2 load) and stipend (\$8,000) for directing the TLC since (at least) 2017, now it offers only one or the other. Given this choice, I have selected a stipend in compensation for completing these tasks:
 - Disburse grants to faculty for the purposes of enhancing teaching and learning, in consultation with the Task Force on Teaching Excellence and the provost and in alignment with University fiscal policies
 - Solicit proposals for Directed Academic Leave, facilitate their review by the Task Force, and make recommendations to the provost
 - Implement, with Nicolette Campos, a year-long mentoring program to support new and early career academic employees

- Participate in the University's AAC&U-sponsored ePortfolio Institute team in support of campus-wide implementation of ePortfolios for students' professional success
- Facilitate the redesign of courses and/or the creation of new learning activities or modules, up to six in total, to fulfill students' Indigenous Cultures & Communities requirement for graduation, beginning in fall 2022
- Host 10 professional development opportunities for faculty
- Continue to foster high levels of participant satisfaction and belonging
- Considering the absence of time to dedicate to the following, these TLC activities are indefinitely suspended:
 - Conducting midsemester class check-ins
 - Facilitating open classrooms
 - Supervising student assistants
 - Hosting an annual Celebration of Teaching & Learning
- During AY2020-2021, the TLC conducted midsemester class check-ins in 48 courses on behalf of 18 faculty encompassing 798 students.
- Olivia Sadler (Class of 2021), Student Assistant for Teaching & Learning for Sustainability, and I co-authored "A survey of environmental attitudes and knowledge of university undergraduate students for the purpose of faculty development in teaching and learning for sustainability" (28 pp.), now under review by *Sustainability & Climate Change*.
- An article by TLC's Engaged Faculty Scholars for Sustainability (Jane Haladay, Mary Ann Jacobs, Tamara Savage, and me), "Service-Learning for Sustainability: Four Approaches for Engagement, Enrichment, Equity, and Citizenship," will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*.
- Nicolette Campos, director of Employee Relations and Workforce Development, and I presented overviews of new and early career academic employee mentoring programming to Chancellor Cummings, Provost Locklear, and department chairs. Pending Provost Locklear's naming of mentors, we will proceed.
- Nineteen faculty took part in the 2021 Celebration of Teaching & Learning.

Planning

- The TLC seeks the provost's approval to collaborate with faculty to design or redesign courses and/or class activities in alignment with the Indigenous Cultures & Communities graduation requirement.