Vice Provost, Teaching & Learning and,
Interim Associate Vice President, Research Update V2
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The Vice Provost Teaching and Learning started on July 25, 2016. Since then, she has focused on consultations with members of the University Community, working on immediate areas requiring attention and short-term goals, establishing partnerships and gaining input and knowledge about KPU to inform longer-term planning. As of November 15, 2016, the Vice-Provost was asked to take on the Interim AVP, Research role and leading the Office of Research and Scholarship. Highlights on the past month's below. Feedback welcomed (Stephanie.Chu@kpu.ca).

Community Consultations & Outreach

1. Community consultations continue including through invitations to some Faculty Councils and Faculty Days over the past two weeks. Attendance at the December 15 Dean's Council and plans to query Chairs to attend a spring departmental meeting are in progress. Discussion topics will include teaching, learning and research and their potential synergies. Individual and small group consultations continue.

2. The Interim AVPR met with the Research Ethics Board on November 18 and reached out to Deans and faculty members with priority items, as well as responding to researchers who contacted her. The Provost and Interim AVPR held a public forum at Surrey on December 2. About 50 community members attended and an engaged dialogue occurred. The Provost indicated that a structure will be communicated mid-January.

   Shortly thereafter a set of questions to elicit informal feedback from KPU faculty, Deans, Associate Deans, and Divisional Business Managers. Conversations were also had with the Director, Business Performance & Advisory and KPU Legal. Information will be compiled and used to inform ORS restructuring, strategic directions and improvements to processes and support. More opportunities for community input are being planned.

Communications

The website provides updates on opportunities and resources for KPU educators http://www.kpu.ca/tlcommons Within the site, are links to other websites such as Experiential Learning and Open Studies which are maintained by other groups/individuals. A blog has been created to house contributions and experiences from the KPU community (accessible via KPU login and password) with posts populating our main teaching and learning page. Also follow our twitter account: @kpu_tlcommons

Other communications: Regular emails to KPU faculty and Administrators have occurred to inform them of upcoming opportunities and events, resulting in 10 positive (and not one negative) comments of appreciation. In the interim, communications for both areas will be consolidated where possible since teaching, learning and research may intersect.

Staffing

1. We are pleased that Katherine Boleszczuk has joined the Office of the Vice Provost, Teaching & Learning as Administrative Manager as of November 28. She joins the existing Manager, Learning Technology; Senior Learning Systems Administrator (temporary promotion), Learning Systems Support Technician (temp.) Donna Hrynkiw (former Senior Learning Administrator) retired on November 30. After a long, positive history at KPU, we wish her well on her next chapter.

The Teaching and Learning Commons Team including the upcoming Teaching Fellows participated in a team-building event and completed an Escape Room through fantastic team-work and individual expertise, and with more than 10 minutes to spare. An auspicious start to our new team! All Fellows start on January 3 and a strategic planning and priorities meeting will occur on January 11. All Fellows and others in the Commons will be involved in applied research in their respective areas including educational development at KPU.

2. Aside from the AVPR position, no staffing changes have occurred. Efforts are being made to ensure the well-being of remaining staff and continued operations.

Office of Research and Scholarship

1. The Interim AVPR and Provost are addressing some challenges with regards to IP and Commercialization as we do not have the infrastructure to support these. Communications are occurring with Camosun and NSERC.

2. Meetings with the Research Ethics Board (REB) and Chair, have provided some valuable insight to improve support for KPU researchers and ethics review which will be incorporated in future planning.

Opportunities & Offerings

In addition to pre-existing Moodle workshops, several opportunities for KPU educators are being planned or have already launched, some in collaboration with other units/partners:

1. Course Redesign Workshop: December 15-17.
2. Assessment Community of Practice: open invitation.
3. Learning Technology Enthusiasts: reformat and open invitation.
4. ePortfolios Showcase: January 20. Faculty led examples and lessons learned.
5. Learning with Eportfolios: January 27 and February 3 with Lesley McCannell.
6. The new K-12 curriculum: Are we ready for these students: February 16 with Jan Unwin.
7. Cross-sector Badges Summit: February 17 with Don Presant.
8. Teaching and supporting EAL students: 2 sessions in planning for spring -- KPU community dialogue and Guest Speaker: Valia Spiliotopoulos (Director, Centre for English Language Learning, Teaching, and Research, SFU).
9. Open Education: Robin DeRosa (speaker), March 20. Consultations with interested groups also available. Contact Rajiv Jhangiani Rajiv.Jhangiani@kpu.ca.
10. KPU Symposium on Teaching, Learning & Research (?) being proposed: June 7-9. Feedback welcomed on an event recognizing our experiences in all three areas vs. a T&L Symposium as originally planned.

Learning Technology & Digital Classrooms

A stronger partnership between the Teaching and learning Commons and IT has been established. Current collaborations that affect KPU's online or classroom environments are:

1. Pilot Implementation of Kaltura (video creation and management). Spring 2017.
2. Determining a synchronous communications tool (Skype for Business). Estimated spring 2017 pilot.
3. Establishing a streamlined, collaborative and communicative process for classroom changes (in collaboration with Scheduling, Facilities, Library and Space Planning).
4. Established classroom design principles with faculty input which will be used whenever changes are made to classrooms. Principles to be expanded upon based on lessons learned from new buildings.
5. Participation in committees for the new Wilson School of Design and Three Civic Plaza.

External Community Engagement

With the recent changes to ORS, Stephanie is now part of the Association of Western Directors and national Research Impact Network and working to improve KPU's visibility in knowledge mobilization and research impact and external planning.

Directions

Teaching & Learning

1. A survey will be circulated in January to establish a baseline for teaching and learning at KPU. Activities for the upcoming year will be based on identified needs through documents and consultations with the University Community and ensure alignment with the Academic Plan and Strategic Vision since their planning and consultations start in 2017.

2. Teaching and supporting EAL students: A meeting is being held on January 19 with heads of various academic and administrative units to communicate existing efforts, provide an inventory of available supports and gaps, and to identify potential synergies and necessary next steps to better support KPU educators and students.

3. Spring will see the VPTL working with faculty on transitioning from acetates for teaching to other alternatives, as well as planning around the next Collaborative Classroom at Richmond.

4. A2410 was originally assigned to INSTL and ORS for their activities. Over time, it became available for general use. Now that the Teaching & Learning Commons is underway, we have identified a need for a designated workshop room and place for educators to try new technologies and approaches, as well as ORS' need for display areas and sessions. As a result, communications are underway with users of this room to inform them that A2410 will revert back to being a TLC and ORS room as of May 1.

Office of Research and Scholarship

1. While under the VPTL's portfolio, the Katalyst grant process for the next fiscal, will change. It will revert to peer review, ensure better alignment with institutional directions and request that faculty members explain the potential influence on their teaching or students' experience. Faculty who have received the .6 PD will be asked to participate in a KPU speaker series or at the June Symposium.

2. It appears that the future ORS unit requires a grant facilitator to work directly with faculty members in their grant applications and contracts. This would ensure that necessary resources are devoted to establishing and supporting procedures and policies and have a solid understanding of current funding agency requirements. This would alleviate KPU researchers from trying to take care of these details, and focus on their research.

Recognizing and Celebrating Teaching, Learning & Research

Feedback to date have suggested a desire for better recognition and communication about activities related to teaching, learning and research at KPU. A fledgling idea at this time is a speaker/colloquium series possibly starting in spring.