

Subject: Updates: Scholarship of teaching & learning, external teaching awards, micro-credentials policy, and digital pedagogy webinar series

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CC: Teaching and Learning Commons

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Dear faculty colleagues,
Ramadan Kareem and Happy Vaisakhi. It has been 50 days since my last email to you and I wanted to write to share another set of updates:

1. Support for the scholarship of teaching and learning

The scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) involves the intentional and systematic inquiry into teaching and assessment practices with a view to enhancing those practices and improve the learning of students. Whereas faculty routinely design, pilot, and refine new teaching methods and learning activities, SoTL involves the rigorous evaluation of the outcomes of these interventions. As a special purpose teaching university, SoTL offers an opportunity for all faculty members to engage in research that builds on existing teaching practices and that informs and strengthens our students' learning environments.

In conversation with the Senate Standing Committee on Research and Graduate Studies, the Chair of the Research Ethics Board (REB), the AVP for Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies, and many faculty colleagues, I have drafted the elements of a plan to provide support for faculty members interested in engaging in SoTL. This will include workshops and guides from the Commons, SoTL-specific guidance from the REB, subscriptions to SoTL books and journals from the Library, guidance and support for publishing in SoTL journals, and access to relevant research software. You can expect to learn more details about these supports in the months to come.

2. Plans to nominate KPU faculty for external teaching awards

KPU is blessed to have many dedicated and innovative faculty who go out of their way to support their students' learning. While we celebrate and profile many of our faculty colleagues in the Commons through the faculty spotlight in our bimonthly [newsletters](#) and on our [blog](#), the university also celebrates the recipients of our annual [Distinguished Teaching Awards](#). I am pleased to report that, beginning this year, we are going to go further to support our exemplary faculty in gaining the recognition they deserve. With the support of the Senate Standing Committee on Tributes, we will begin nominating our faculty for external teaching awards including the newly-established West Coast Teaching Excellence Award (from the [BC Teaching and Learning Council](#)) and the [3M National Teaching Fellowship](#) (from the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education).

3. Draft policy for Micro-credentials being revised following consultations

Last week the draft policy and procedure for AC15: Micro-credentials completed its six-week public posting period on the [policy blog](#). I was delighted to see the high level of engagement and excitement across the university in this new form of curricular innovation. In addition to the many constructive suggestions and insightful comments posted on the policy blog, I am grateful for the thoughtful feedback I received as I presented the draft policy at meetings of all eight Faculties, three Senate Standing Committees, and Senate. I

am currently revising the draft policy documents to reflect the feedback I received. Among the revisions that will be made is the addition of language that makes explicit the roles of Faculty Curriculum Committees and Faculty Councils in the development and approval of credit-bearing micro-credentials. I am also happy to report that KPU administration met earlier this week with the KFA to begin to address questions related to AC15 that pertain to the collective agreement. We remain committed to working cooperatively with the KFA to address these questions.

4. Inaugural Digital Pedagogy Webinar Series coming to a close

This past year the Commons launched our inaugural [Digital Pedagogy Webinar Series](#). Our first four webinars featured speakers who addressed topics such as creativity, data literacies, student data privacy, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. All of these webinars were recorded and are available for your viewing anytime at: <https://www.kpu.ca/dpws> (scroll to the bottom of the page for the playlist). With the Spring semester coming to a close I wanted to invite you to [register](#) to join our final webinar in this year's series on May 18 (12-1pm), which will feature Dr. Kevin Gannon from Grand View University (Iowa, USA). Dr. Gannon is the author of [Radical Hope: A Teaching Manifesto](#) and will be speaking about Inclusive Digital Pedagogy in Exclusionary Times.

That's all I have to share for now. For those of you who have been teaching this Spring, I wish you a positive close to the semester. I hope you have been able to enjoy some of the gorgeous sunshine that has made safe outdoor activity so delightful this week.

On behalf of the entire Commons team, thank you for your dedication to our students. We are proud to work in support of your efforts.

Rajiv



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At KPU, we work, study, and live in a region south of the Fraser River which overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral lands of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Semihamoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt, and Kwikwetlen peoples.