



OFFICE of THE PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

Provost’s Task Force on Pedagogical Innovation Summary of Working Group Recommendations

Objectives of the Provost’s Task Force on Pedagogical Innovation (PTFPI)

The PTFPI met from January-June 2021 with the following objective:

To position U of G as a continued leader in post-secondary education in the Post-COVID environment by

- **identifying 3-5 teaching and learning models or approaches** that could be incubated and grown within the range of diverse pedagogical approaches used at the University, and
- **developing plans to promote and support implementation** of these approaches.

For more information about the Task Force, see the [PTFPI website](#).

Working Groups

During the initial meeting, task force members brainstormed what specific innovative teaching and learning approaches or models they would like to see implemented or sustained at UofG. Based on their ideas, four working groups were established:

Alternative Forms of Assessment and Evaluation	Inter- and Trans-Disciplinary Teaching and Learning	Experiential and Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning	Supporting Diverse Learning Environments
Justine Hobbins Lisa Kazuhara Sean Mitchell Indira Naidoo-Harris Tyler Poirier Barry Praamsma-Townshend Byron Sheldrick Martin Williams	Gerarda Darlington Cate Dewey Jacqueline Hamilton Shoshanah Jacobs Fiona James W. Glen Pyle	Ruben Burga David Danto Simon LaChance Dale Lackeyram Brittany Luby Kimberley Martin Melissa Tanti	John Dawson Michelle Fach Craig Hyatt Yoonhee Lee Mark Lipton Soha Eid Moussa Ian Spears Jon Warland

Core Principles Underlying our Work

During the initial meetings, task force members were asked to brainstorm what constraints or challenges need to be addressed to continue innovating teaching and learning at UofG. Based on their ideas, the task force identified the following core principles that would underpin our work and future teaching and learning innovations and changes in the post-COVID context:

- Ensuring and Enhancing Accessibility, Equity, Inclusion, Diversity, and Decolonization
- Developing a Culture of Care: Health, Wellness, Mutual Respect, and Well-Being

- Encouraging and Supporting Experimentation and Innovation with Evidence-Based and Promising Practices
- Promoting Real Change as a Community: Transparency, Stewardship, Engagement, Communication, and Collaboration
- Ensuring Appropriate Supports, Resources, and Infrastructure Needed for Innovation

Working Group Recommendations

After careful deliberations, working groups shared their final recommendations through a series of documents, available on the [Working Group Outputs webpage](#), as well as in a summary slides in the [June 2021 Communication Update](#). Within these documents, a total of 26 unique recommendations were identified. These recommendations can be grouped into 5 overarching themes:

- 1) [Institutional and Departmental Policy Changes](#)
- 2) [Strengthen Centralized Resources, Programming, and Communication](#)
- 3) [Enhance Teaching Conversations at the Local Level through Faculty Leaders and Innovators](#)
- 4) [Assess the Impact of Teaching and Assessment Innovations](#)
- 5) [Support Institutional Policies and Recommendations related to EDID and Teaching and Learning](#)

Each recommendation below is linked to the relevant working group documents where you can find more information.

Theme #1: Institutional and Departmental Policy Changes

The recommendations in this theme focused on changes to tenure, promotion, and evaluation criteria, course and program funding and approval processes, institutional exam policies, institutional learning outcomes, and course tagging and student transcripts. The recommendations were:

Recommendation	Working Group Documents with More Information
Changes to tenure, promotion, and evaluation criteria and faculty performance reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Challenges and Barriers: Inter-Trans-Disciplinary Teaching and Learning • Showcasing Pedagogical Innovation and Teaching Matters Communications, item #1 • Values of Transdisciplinary Teaching • Addressing Pedagogical Gaps in a Post-COVID Educational Setting – An Experiential and Community Focused Perspective item #5
Changes to course and program funding and approval processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Challenges and Barriers: Inter-Trans-Disciplinary Teaching and Learning
Revised exam policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred Exams Policy Development Briefing • Exam Scheduling Policy Development Briefing
New institutional learning outcome on Public Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing Pedagogical Gaps in a Post-COVID Educational Setting – An Experiential and Community Focused Perspective, item #5
Changes to course tagging and information on student transcripts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing Pedagogical Gaps in a Post-COVID Educational Setting – An Experiential and Community Focused Perspective, item #5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Challenges and Barriers: Inter-Trans-Disciplinary Teaching and Learning
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Theme #2: Strengthen Centralized Resources, Programming, and Communication

The recommendations in this theme focused on centralized teaching and learning resources, innovation labs, new faculty programming, communication, and curricular changes. The recommendations were:

Recommendation	Working Group Documents with More Information
Curating, creating, and sharing new resources on teaching, learning, assessment, and diverse learning environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTL Proposal, “Strengthening Centralized Resources” section • Showcasing Pedagogical Innovation and Teaching Matters Communications, item #5 • Transdisciplinary Course Modifications: A Guide to Implementation • Transdisciplinary Course Development: Tips, Tricks, and Best Practices • Creating a Transdisciplinary Program
Create a Pedagogical Innovation Lab and Assessment Lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTL Proposal, “Building Towards an Assessment Lab” section • Educational Technology Lab: Recommendations and Principles
Develop programming for new faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing Pedagogical Innovation and Teaching Matters Communications, item #2
Invest in teaching communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing Pedagogical Innovation and Teaching Matters Communications, item #4
Integrate community-focused learning pedagogy and activities in the curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing Pedagogical Gaps in a Post-COVID Educational Setting – An Experiential and Community Focused Perspective, items #1, 2, & 3

Theme #3: Enhance Teaching Conversations at the Local Level through Faculty Leaders and Innovators

The recommendations in this theme focused on encouraging conversations about teaching and learning at the college and departmental level through extending a hub-and-spoke model, identifying faculty leaders and innovators, establishing funded University Teaching Chairs, and expanding the work of the Academic Technologies Advisory Council. The recommendations were:

Recommendation	Working Group Documents with More Information
Extend a hub-and-spoke model from OTL to the colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing Pedagogical Innovation and Teaching Matters Communications, item #6
Encourage faculty leaders and innovators to facilitate discussions about teaching at the local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTL Proposal, “Supporting Decentralized Work” section

Establish funded University Teaching Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing Pedagogical Innovation and Teaching Matters Communications, item #3
Academic Technologies Advisory Council showcases faculty engagement with educational technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing Pedagogical Innovation and Teaching Matters Communications, item #6

Theme #4: Assess the Impact of Teaching and Assessment Innovations

The recommendation in this theme focused on assessing the impact of teaching and assessment innovations to understand our current state and to measure improvements over time (see [OTL Proposal](#), “Assessing Impact” section).

Theme #5: Support Institutional Policies and Recommendations related to EDID and Teaching and Learning

The recommendation in this theme focused on integrating an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization focus into the development and delivery of Experiential and Community Engaged Teaching and Learning (see [Addressing Pedagogical Gaps in a Post-COVID Educational Setting – An Experiential and Community Focused Perspective](#), item #4).

Next Steps

These working group reports represent the conclusion of the Task Force’s work. At the time of this update, the Provost is reviewing recommendations and actions based on their impact for instructors and students, their urgency, their strategic importance and alignment with other institutional initiatives. Updates will be available on the [Provost’s Task Force on Pedagogical Innovation website](#).