

**Provost's Task Force on Pedagogical Innovation:
Positioning the University of Guelph as a Leader in Teaching and Learning Post-COVID
December 1, 2020**

The University of Guelph takes pride in providing exceptional learning experiences for our students. In the "Inspiring Learning and Inquiry" theme of our strategic framework, we commit to meeting learners' changing needs using evidence-based practices and new technologies. Our 2019 Teaching and Learning Strategic Plan addresses our intention to support student learning through inclusive, flexible and evidence-informed instructional practices. The Plan articulates six goals, including developing our leadership in teaching and learning, and innovating spaces and technologies to enhance teaching and learning.

Despite our long history of pedagogical innovation and the priority we place on this area, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 brought unprecedented change to our teaching practices when we had to shift almost entirely to technologically mediated remote course delivery. This has been very challenging. At the same time, it has been a period of rich learning for instructors and students alike. We have experienced the limitations and drawbacks of online learning, but we have also experienced benefits it can bring.

As we look towards 2021 and a gradual return to more on-campus activity, we look forward to resuming face-to-face teaching as a regular activity. But we also know that the COVID-19 experience will bring lasting change to how instructors want to teach, how students want to learn, and what society expects a university education will look like. To continue to achieve our aspirations for leadership in post-secondary teaching and learning, we need to engage in deep discussions and consultation within and beyond our community to consider what we want the U of G learning experience to look like in the future. I am therefore striking a Provost's Task Force to deliberate on these issues over the coming months and chart our path into the post-COVID world.

Goal:

To position the University of Guelph as an international leader in post-secondary teaching and learning in the Late- and Post-COVID context.

Objectives:

- To engage a broad group of faculty, staff and student leaders in visioning the future of teaching and learning at the University of Guelph.
- To produce recommendations for specific pedagogical approaches that faculty and students have found to be successful to promote and support for implementation in F21.

Membership:

- Gwen Chapman, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Chair
- Cate Dewey, Associate Vice-President (Academic), Vice-Chair
- 1-2 representatives from each College, including a mix of Deans, Associate Deans Academic, Associate Deans Research & Graduate Studies, Faculty members
- 1-2 representatives from each of the Guelph-Humber and Ridgetown campuses
- 1 Library representative
- 2 Undergraduate students
- 2 Graduate students
- 3-4 U of G staff leaders in teaching and learning

Application & Process:

Applications should be 1 page maximum and include the following information:

- Name/title
- Affiliation: College, Department, Program of Study, Alumni etc.
- A short description of why you are interested in serving on the committee
- A short description of your involvement or experience with pedagogical innovation

Applications can be submitted in confidence by email to provost@uoguelph.ca

Process and anticipated timeline:

- Task force announced at Senate (November 30, 2020)
- Nominations received by Provost's Office (December 11, 2020)
- Membership confirmed and announced (December 18, 2020)
- First task force meeting (Week of January 11, 2021), followed by meetings every 2nd week during winter term to:
 - Review Institutional Research and Planning data, external reports, and academic literature, and consult with campus and external stakeholders to identify successes and challenges with remote and hybrid course delivery, as well projections for what post-secondary teaching and learning will look like post-COVID
 - Identify a suite of recommended pedagogical approaches to be implemented at U of G in Fall 2021 to position us as (continued) leaders in pedagogical innovation and student success in the Post-COVID world
 - Engage with students, faculty, and staff to gauge support for the recommended pedagogical approaches and identify resources that would be required for implementation (including technology, classroom upgrades, professional development, other supports)
 - Recommend strategies to encourage and support instructors in adopting recommended pedagogical approaches, including possible policy and procedural changes
- Draft report circulated for consultation within U of G (April 2021)
- Final report released (May/June 2021)