Garcia,
Julia Devoy, Madeleine McCollough, Bob Bloom

The agenda of the September 17 meeting was the new UCT website and the Course Evaluation Project.

Stacy Grooters began the meeting by going over this summer's reorganization of the CTE, which resulted in the formation of the new Center for Digital Innovation and Learning, which is being led by Bryan Blakeley. CDIL was established in order to keep up with the demand for new online course and program development, demands that are largely coming from BC's professional schools. CDIL will also be responsible for supporting hybrid course development as well as "back end" support of educational technologies and Canvas administration (CIDL will also house Mediakron support). The CTE will continue its focus on teaching innovation, faculty and graduate student development, and the support of faculty in the effective use of technology in the classroom. For the most part, faculty teaching face-to-face classes will continue to interact with the CTE for most of their teaching questions. About 2/3 of former CTE staff are now working in CDIL with 1/3 remaining in the CTE (five full-time and two temporary staff). For the time being, the two programs are still located together in the O'Neill 250 suite until a separate location for CDIL is identified. The CTE mission statement remains the same, and due to the new structure, it will now be able to concentrate its activities upon faculty and graduate student development.

In addition, the CTE has completed its FY'19 annual report which will be shared with the UCT.

The UCT discussed the status of the new UCT website, which needs to be approved. Shaylonda Barton updated the committee on the current status of the new website, going over its location, layout, and content. Some possible edits to the website were suggested, such as whether past recipients of TAM grants should be kept listed on the website, and if so, for how long: the addition of too many recipients from previous years could impact the user-friendliness of the website and impede the accessibility of such information. Other improvements to the accessibility of the website were also raised, such as whether the minutes from past meetings could be placed and organized in a more accessible fashion. Kathleen Bailey suggested that current projects should be included on the website, so as to encourage communication with faculty who would be interested in learning and participating in such projects.

Sylvia Sellers-Garcia suggested that faculty should be educated about the changes that will be made to the course evaluations. It would be beneficial if faculty could be walked through the process that the committee went through in suggesting the changes to the course evaluations, so that the underlying reasoning could be made clear. It would be possible to go to each department separately in order to educate them about the changes. Billy Soo raised the prospect of talking with the deans, and educating the promotion and tenure committees about these issues. Advisory notes could also be written that would go over why the changes were made.

The possibility of including information on student demographics was discussed, and while such information would be helpful in tracking bias, it could also be potentially too specific and thus undermine the anonymity of the course evaluations.

In regards to how much emphasis should be placed on course evaluations, it was emphasized that such evaluations can only be a piece of the puzzle, and that there are also many other important factors that must be considered.

A discussion of the Faculty Retreat was put on the agenda for the next meeting.