Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning

Sparking curiosity, transforming learning

2020-25 | UNIT PLAN | AT-A-GLANCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Priority 1

Foster innovation in evidence-based teaching and learning

STRATEGY 1.1 Enrich and deepen capacity in curriculum review and development

- Support the implementation of revised quality assurance and curriculum review processes.
- Create meaningful professional learning opportunities for academic staff who are leading curriculum reviews.
- Launch Curriculum Links, in collaboration with institutional partners, to help faculties and departments engage in and report on curriculum mapping and review.

STRATEGY 1.2 Continue to recognize outstanding contributions to student learning and provide opportunities for educational leadership

- Support academic units in developing nominations for external awards and prizes that celebrate teaching and learning.
- Evaluate and expand support for the University of Calgary Teaching Awards and Teaching and Learning Grants programs to ensure access across faculties.
- Expand the University of Calgary Teaching Scholars program to strengthen educational leadership and scholarly teaching practices across disciplines.
- Support and enhance the Educational Leaders in Residence program to leverage on-campus expertise and advance strategic initiatives in teaching and learning.

STRATEGY 1.3 Expand support in teaching and learning programming and resources for teaching development

- Expand pathways for engagement in the Certificates in University Teaching and Learning for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.
- Launch the Academic Staff Certificate in University Teaching and Learning.
- Bolster micro-credentialing in programs such as Teaching Online and Course Design to recognize and help learners track and showcase their achievements.
- Develop evidence-based resources and support for course design, teaching dossiers, online learning, undergraduate research and experiential learning.

STRATEGY 1.4 Lead and strengthen capacity in blended and online learning across campus

- Support campus platforms to expand access to online and blended learning (e.g. video creation and management platforms).
- Implement the Online Learning Project to create 10 to 15 robust online and blended courses across disciplines.
- Develop open-access resources for teaching in online and blended modalities to provide more flexible support for instructors.

STRATEGY 1.5 Foster the meaningful innovation, development and use of learning spaces and technologies

- Expand programming, resources and consultation opportunities for learning technology integration.
- Develop an evergreen strategy to maintain and innovate with learning technologies and spaces in the TI.
- Centralize and streamline space booking processes for academic courses and activities in the TI to expand access and align with existing university practices.
- Create a community of practice for instructors who teach in flexible learning spaces in the TI and across campus.

Priority 2

Develop experiential learning opportunities

STRATEGY 2.1 Create a unit to build capacity for experiential learning

- Develop a new unit in the TI with a focus on experiential education.
- Support academic units to develop and strengthen capacity for experiential learning across campus.
- Create an experiential learning dashboard in partnership with the Office of Institutional Analysis to track and report on experiential learning metrics.
- Advance the conversation on experiential learning by developing common language for experiential learning and sharing practices within and across faculties.

STRATEGY 2.2 Develop programming and initiatives to support experiential learning and undergraduate research

- Build a strong network for experiential learning across the university.
- Provide opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to develop their mentoring skills through supporting undergraduate research.
- Support and evaluate the Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) as a meaningful summer-long experiential learning initiative.
- Expand the reach of the Global Challenges courses.
- Assist academic programs to expand undergraduate research experiences in first-year courses.

Priority 3

Expand impact and connect communities

STRATEGY 3.1 Strengthen teaching and learning partnerships within the University of Calgary

- Support processes and practices that connect faculties, departments and units to build opportunities to strengthen teaching expertise and pedagogical development.
- Work with National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) teams to strengthen the student experience across programs.
- Support teaching and learning initiatives developed and led by academic units and student groups.

STRATEGY 3.2 Build a campus-wide teaching and learning network

- Work with the Teaching Academy to engage teaching experts in peer-to-peer mentoring and local educational leadership initiatives.
- Expand the number of instructors from different disciplines that facilitate TI programs to amplify existing teaching expertise.
- Create integrated opportunities in TI programming for collaborating with and involving students as adjudicators, ambassadors, project partners and mentors.
- Strengthen support for mental health and well-being as it relates to teaching and learning through engagement with the Campus Mental Health Strategy Teaching and Learning Subcommittee.

STRATEGY 3.3 Expand leadership in postsecondary teaching and learning locally, nationally and internationally

- Engage in and host national conversations on teaching and learning and related research.
- Partner with visiting scholars to raise the profile of strategic teaching and learning initiatives at the TI.
- Participate in key national and international teaching and learning networks.
- Grow the success of the Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching.

Priority 4

Advance equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and Indigenous perspectives

STRATEGY 4.1 Integrate equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and Indigenous perspectives into TI programs

- Weave Indigenous and inclusive pedagogy into teaching and learning programming to both model pedagogical approaches and provide practical strategies.
- Integrate EDI training (implicit bias, cultural competency and bystander training) into teaching and learning decision-making, grant and award processes.
- Integrate the intercultural capacity framework into the work of the TI.
- Develop EDI programs related to Universal Design for Learning and Indigenous perspectives.

STRATEGY 4.2 Weave Indigenous perspectives, equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) into our work practices and processes

- Develop awareness of and implement protocols for engaging Indigenous communities and Elders in our practices and programs.
- Establish a TI working group to develop an action plan and strategies to expand Indigenous perspectives across the institute.
- Develop strategies to intentionally integrate EDI into TI practices and operations.

Priority 5

Meaningfully develop our team and our workplace culture

STRATEGY 5.1 Strengthen our team, wellbeing and a sense of joy

- Establish the TI Social and Wellness (SWELL) committee with representation from all teams and levels of staff to ensure wellness and employee engagement.
- Recognize and create opportunities for collective leadership for all TI staff members.
- Offer annual TI-wide professional learning opportunities to increase capacity.
- Strengthen leadership practices to ensure meaningful performance management, professional development and annual review processes.

STRATEGY 5.2 Define Taylor Institute workplace practices and processes

- Streamline and clarify planning, procedures, work flow and structure of programming and events across the TI.
- Create a centralized strategic operations team to streamline TI-wide operations.
- Ensure workplace practices and processes align with the university's commitments to sustainability.

STRATEGY 5.3 Ensure relevancy of our programs and model critical reflection

- Improve efficiencies for program access, evaluation and reporting.
- Develop and implement a strategy for new TI program development, approval and evaluation.
- Undertake a complete program evaluation for current TI programs to ensure relevance and impact.