

Learning Environment Committee (LEC)

Annual Report to Faculty Senate 2018-2019

Committee Members and Meetings Attendance:

The following is a list of committee members, meeting dates, and attendance therein.

Senate Members	09/20	11/08	01/22
Albu, Titus (CAS, Chemistry)	X	X	X
Danquah, Michael (CECS, Chemical Engineering)			
Dileepan, Parthsara (COB, Management)	X	X	X
Eckelmann, Susan (CAS, History)	X	X	X
Evans, Michelle (CAS, Political Science & Public Service)		X	
Gaudin, Tim (CAS, Biology, Geology & Environmental Science)	X		
Hungenberg, Eric (CHEPS, Health & Human Performance)	X	X	
Kim, Jisook (CAS, Chemistry)		X	X
Peyer, Karissa (CHEPS, Health & Human Performance)	X	X	X
Rogers, Brian (Chair, Library, Library IT)	X	X	X
Smith, Wes (Library, Studio)	X	X	X
Witt, David (COB, Management)	X	X	X
Ex Officio Members	09/20	11/08	01/22
Behneman, Donny (Provost)	X	X	X
Carroll, Troy (Walker Center for Teaching and Learning)	X	X	X
Liedtka, Theresa (Library)		X	X
Omotajo, Modupe (Graduate Rep)			
Parsley, Tony (Information Technology)	X	X	X
Rigler, Michelle (Disability Resources Center)			
Tyler, Kenny (Facilities Planning and Management)		X	

Charge and Responsibilities:

The Learning Environment committee is responsible for helping faculty identify and assess the best design requirements needed to successfully achieve desired student learning outcomes.

The establishment of this advisory committee ensures that faculty input is given at the early stages of discussions on academic matters affecting faculty, students, and the learning environment at UTC, in relation to the best design requirements needed for students to achieve learning outcomes.

The Committee shall make recommendations to the Faculty Senate on matters including, but not limited to the teaching and learning environment, course design, room design, and course/classroom technology.

The Committee shall provide multiple channels of communication among the Faculty Senate, faculty-at-large, Administration, relevant staff units, and Student Government association on matters affecting the learning environment at UTC.

The Committee shall serve as an advisory resource to the Chancellor, Provost and Faculty Senate on matters related to the learning environment at UTC.

Summary of Activity:

The committee formally met three times. I had intended for us to meet one more time in the spring 2020 semester, prior to the shift online due to COVID-19. The meetings primarily served as an opportunity for interdepartmental discussions and perspective-sharing around challenges in the learning environment, alongside updates regarding modifications and changes to these spaces.

As with last year, two members of the committee (Wes Smith and myself) attended a national conference on learning spaces in the university setting. As similar opportunities for being part of a larger dialogue presented themselves, I passed along requests or suggestions for committee member involvement. The last thing several of us attended was an interactive demo of a revamped classroom.

Members were also invited to participate in other committees or initiatives, such as lecture capture. We had intended to provide all faculty members the opportunity to tour renovated or dilapidated spaces on campus, to help achieve broader recognition and consensus as to the state of UTC's learning environments. This was another goal cut short.

We had also intended to re-poll the faculty and students as to their experiences in the classroom; the surveys had been revised/rebuilt but had not yet been sent.

Committee Resolutions:

The committee did not propose any resolutions this academic year.

Committee Recommendations:

The committee did not propose any recommendations this academic year.

2020-2021 Action Items:

Action items will be contingent upon the nature of the fall semester and the ongoing impact of COVID-19. Presumably, there will be a new chair and I will be rolled off the committee, unless I substitute for Theresa Liedtka as the ex officio member for the library. I would encourage the remaining members plus the new chair to consider whether the charge of the committee can fold into the broader response to COVID-19. Beyond that, I would suggest continuing to build upon the work of the last two years: surveying the campus community, paying attention to and providing feedback on needed changes and adaptations in the physical spaces of our classrooms, advocating for improvement and opportunities to explore evolutions in the classroom, advocating for the faculty to play a critical role and voice in institutional projects related to the classroom, and advocating for a systemic budget approach to lab and classroom maintenance and upgrades.