

**Senate Committee on University Teaching & Learning (SCUTL)  
Report of Activities  
2001-02 Academic Year  
April 24, 2002**

## Background

The membership and Terms of Reference of SCUTL are available at <http://www.reg.sfu.ca/senate/SenateComms/SCUTL.html>. This report is being submitted by Dr. Tom Grieve (Acting Chair), with assistance from Dr. David Kaufman (Director, LIDC), on behalf of Dr. Cheryl Amundsen (Chair), who is on short-term leave from SFU at this time.

## Meetings

This committee met for 90 minutes each month from September, 2001 to April, 2002, and has meetings planned for May and June, 2002.

## Guests

The committee welcomed several guests to its meetings for an exchange of views, including:

Discussion of Report of the Ad Hoc Senate Committee to Review and Develop the Undergraduate Curricula

Dr. Dennis Krebs, Chair  
Dr. Michael Wortis, Member

Discussion of Report on Undergraduate Grading and Grading Practices at Simon Fraser University

Ms. Laurine Harrison, Student Ombudsperson, SFU (May, 2002 meeting)

## Major Activities

1. Provided advice and guidance on program initiatives to the newly appointed (July 1, 2001) Director of The Learning & Instructional Development Centre (LIDC).
2. Provided input into the naming of the new Centre (LIDC).
3. Provided input into the design of the new (2001-02) Certificate Program in Teaching & Learning for SFU Graduate Students.
4. Two members of SCUTL (SFU Teaching Award Winners Tom Grieve and Martin Laba) presented a 2.5-hour session on "Exemplary Teachers at SFU" to the

Certificate Program students in April, 2002 (see 3 above).

5. Developed a questionnaire to survey faculty and sessional instructors about matters related to teaching at SFU. It is planned to administer this survey in collaboration with the Director, Academic Relations (Sue Roppel) in the near future.
6. Agreed to serve as an Academic Review Group for LIDC academic programs leading to university recognition, e.g., Certificate Programs. Several new initiatives will be reviewed and discussed at the May, 2002 meeting.
7. Discussed extensively the role and use of teaching evaluations at SFU, and agreed to address issues in this area in the future.

### Conclusions

Several factors have led to a revitalization of SCUTL, including:

1. A new Chair (Dr. Cheryl Amundsen) with expertise in higher education and prior experience in the teaching and learning centre at McGill University.
2. Several new members appointed to the committee, each of whom have a strong commitment to and energy for enhancing teaching at SFU.
3. Appointment of a dynamic new Director of the LIDC, who is making extensive use of the expertise on the committee to help shape LIDC initiatives.

On behalf of its members, I am pleased to report that SCUTL is alive, thriving, and increasing its influence on teaching and learning at SFU.

Respectfully submitted on April 24, 2002  
Dr. Tom Grieve, Acting Chair, SCUTL  
English Department, SFU

