

24 April 1997

***REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY TEACHING
AND LEARNING (SCUTL)***

During its third year in operation SCUTL met 6 times over the period 1 May 1996-1 May 1997 (cf. 11 times in the preceding year). The committee has not had a very productive year, partly because its Chair and Secretary had heavy demands on their time due to their involvement in the Graduate Survey Committee. In addition, Committee members have expressed doubt/uncertainties, which have translated into inaction, about the mandate and parameters of SCUTL.

The Committee has been involved in the following during the reporting period:

(1) Course evaluations

It will be recalled that SCUTL administered a pilot version of a course evaluation form in July 1995. During the summer of 1996, Vice-President Gagan provided funds for the committee to hire a student (Jody Reilhan) to complete the preliminary analysis begun by SCUTL members. His report was submitted in late fall, 1996. However, more analyses are needed, and another version of the form designed. SCUTL members have expressed major reservations about a Senate Committee, especially one with no funds, continuing further with such an endeavour.

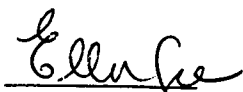
Given the controversial nature of course evaluations, SCUTL is in the process of planning a university-wide forum for the discussion of course evaluations, likely to be held in May 1997.

(2) Teaching Awards

In keeping with our Senate-defined mandate, SCUTL is involved with Excellence in Teaching awards. Communication with the TSSU continues regarding teaching award for Teaching Assistants and Sessional Instructors. In particular, we are working with TSSU to establish a set of criteria for teaching awards for TSSU members.

As noted above, SCUTL is uncertain of its mandate, given that most anything that goes on in the university could be part of it. The Committee has set up a meeting with the Vice-President, Academic (scheduled for 6 May) to discuss issues and seek counsel.

Submitted by:


Ellen M. Gee
Chair, SCUTL