

Remote Teaching and Learning Preparedness Task Force Weekly Update #3 - June 10, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The Remote Teaching and Learning Preparedness Task Force and its five Working Groups continue to meet multiple times each week to prepare for the possibility that StFX may have to deliver its academic programs online in 2020-21. While we wait for more information about the delivery model that will be used in September, we also know that uncertainty around the Covid-19 pandemic means we must be prepared to adapt regardless how 2020-21 starts. The Task Force is working with this reality in mind, and we are pleased to provide you with an overview of the group's progress over the last week.

Latest Recommendations

At its meeting of June 4, 2020, the Task Force approved the following five recommendations, all of which are related to preserving and promoting academic integrity in an online learning environment:

- **Promoting Academic Integrity** – Approaches to promoting academic integrity, including a recommendation related to the use of an academic integrity pledge.
- **Changes to Academic regulations for the 2020-21 Academic Year** – Recommendation that Senate temporarily remove the requirement for invigilated examinations if courses are online.
- **Best Practices on Invigilated Examinations** – Recommendation that Faculty and teaching staff reduce emphasis on invigilated examinations.
- **Best Practice on Alternative Assessment** – Recommendation related to the use of assessment methods other than invigilated tests and examinations.
- **Pass/Fail Grading in 2020-21 academic year** – Recommendation that the university not offer a Pass/Fail grading option for the upcoming year.

For a full description and rationale for each recommendation, please see our [website](#).

We encourage everyone to review each recommendation and to use the information to inform course planning.

Professional Development Workshops.

Two series of PD sessions will be offered in the coming weeks: one series approaches topics from a pedagogical perspective, and the other focuses on the technological aspects of using online tools. The first series is presented by StFX faculty members who are experienced with online teaching. Below is the schedule for the first two weeks of pedagogical sessions; other topics will be added for the following weeks. For details and to register, [click here](#).

	Tuesday, June 9th	Wednesday, June 10th	Thursday, June 11th	Friday, June 12th	Monday, June 15th
11:00	#1. First Steps in Shifting your Course to Online (Basic)	#3. Using OneNote as a Synchronous or Asynchronous Tool (Intermediate)	#5. Building a Learning community in the Online Classrooms (Basic)	#7. Tips and Tools to Support Student-led Presentations in on-line Classrooms (Basic)	#9. Ways of Capturing Demonstrations in Math, Statistics, Business, and Science Classes. (Basic)
1:00	#2. Building and Loading Effective Power Point Slides (Basic)	#4. Using Moodle as a Learning Management System (LMS) (Basic)	#6. Teaching Online and Formative Assessment Considerations (Basic)	#8. Tools for Techies (Intermediate)	#10. Making the Most of Online Discussions (Basic)

The technology-focused workshops will start in mid-June. Details will be announced shortly.

All PD sessions will be recorded, with the recordings posted on our [website](#).

Faculty Mentorship Program

Approximately 50 faculty and staff have signed up to work with a faculty mentor to plan the best way to transition their course to remote delivery. Most of the mentorship activities will take place in June, so it is important that people who are considering requesting a mentor do so as soon as possible. There are limited spaces remaining; please contact [Joanne Tompkins](#) if you have not yet registered and would like to do so.

Faculty Technology Refresh

As part of the regular technology refresh process, faculty members who have a computer that is at least five years old will be contacted by June 12th to arrange to have their computer refreshed. In the event that you are not contacted by June 12th and suspect your device may be older than five years, please contact IT services using the New Computer Deployment service, available here: <https://stfx.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1764/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=22311>.

Student Input

The two student members of the Task Force, Siobhan Lacey and Jack Irvin, along with faculty members Erin Austen and Neil Maltby, are preparing to survey a select group of returning students about their needs in the event that programs are delivered online. Results will be shared with Task Force working groups and in these updates to the community.

Communications Hub

The Task Force is committed to keeping the community informed about its work. The primary channels for that communication are these weekly updates, as well as the Online Task Force page of the StFX Teaching and Learning Centre Website. The [website](#) is updated regularly with information about PD sessions, all Task Force recommendations, and other resources.

If you have any other questions or information to share, please don't hesitate to reach out to Janice or Joanne directly.

Janice Landry and Joanne Tompkins
Co-chairs, Remote Teaching and Learning Preparedness Task Force.