

Experiential Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 11, 2026

Time: 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Location: MULH 4023/Teams

Attendance

Elizabeth Yeo, Cathy MacDonald, Nancy Forestell, Wojciech Tokarz, Jacqueline DeLeebeeck, Martin Chiasson, Megan Turner, Jane MacDonald

Regrets

Angie Kolen, Mark Fuller, Alessandro D'Aquino, Katelyn Ball, Greg Hadley, Sam Read, Eileen Alma, Shandra Mac Master

Purpose of Meeting

The meeting focused on reviewing consultation findings, discussing the emerging Experiential Opportunity Ecosystem, considering implementation priorities, and identifying next steps for faculty engagement, communications, and institutional planning.

1. Consultation Findings and Emerging Direction

The Committee received an update on the experiential learning consultation process, the emerging Experiential Opportunity Ecosystem concept, and the proposed implementation approach.

Members noted that the consultation process has generated substantial input from students, faculty, staff, alumni, employers, and community partners. Discussion focused on how the project should transition from consultation toward implementation planning and institutional engagement.

The Committee agreed that experiential learning is already a significant institutional strength and that future efforts should focus on improving visibility, coordination, recognition, and access to existing opportunities while creating conditions that support future growth.

Members expressed support for the overall direction of the project and the phased implementation approach.

2. Departmental Pathways and Academic Engagement

The Committee discussed the role of departmental pathways in supporting student awareness, academic planning, recruitment, and experiential learning participation.

Members noted that pathway discussions may provide an effective mechanism for helping academic units identify existing strengths, opportunities for growth, and areas of alignment with the broader experiential learning strategy.

The Committee supported continued pathway development and future engagement with academic units.

3. Experiential Learning Framework and Implementation Considerations

The Committee discussed the importance of providing greater clarity regarding implementation expectations, available supports, and institutional processes.

Discussion included:

- Experiential learning criteria and standards;
- Learning outcomes and assessment;
- Opportunity Catalogue inclusion;
- Student recognition and participation tracking; and
- Institutional supports required to sustain participation and growth.

Members emphasized the importance of balancing ambition with institutional capacity and ensuring that implementation remains realistic and sustainable.

Members discussed the distinction between near-term participation growth and longer-term expansion of experiential learning opportunities. The Committee noted that some growth may be achievable through existing resources by improving visibility, coordination, communications, and student awareness of opportunities already available across the institution. Members observed that the foundational initiatives proposed in Years 1–2, including implementation of the Orbis platform, development of the Opportunity Catalogue, departmental pathway mapping, and communications activities, are intended to help more students discover and engage with existing experiential learning opportunities while also supporting greater faculty awareness and participation.

The Committee further noted that significant future expansion will likely require the advancement of the institutional enablers identified in Years 3–5 of the implementation plan, including faculty capacity, partnership development, student supports, recognition structures, and sustainable resource planning.

4. Faculty Engagement, Recognition, and Support

The Committee discussed the role of faculty engagement in supporting long-term success. Members noted that experiential learning often requires significant investments in relationship-building, mentorship, community engagement, and partnership development.

Discussion highlighted the importance of considering how experiential learning activities and community-engaged work may be recognized and supported through institutional processes, faculty development initiatives, and future policy discussions.

5. Communications and Awareness

The Committee discussed approaches for increasing awareness of experiential learning opportunities and outcomes.

Members identified opportunities to strengthen communications through:

- Student success stories;
- Faculty and alumni testimonials;
- Departmental examples;

- Employer and community partner perspectives; and
- Other storytelling approaches that demonstrate the impact of experiential learning.

The Committee noted that effective communications will be important for building institutional awareness and engagement.

6. Measurement and Future Planning

The Committee discussed the importance of establishing baseline information and future measures of success.

Members noted that participation data, opportunity mapping, student outcomes, and impact measures will be important considerations as implementation progresses.

Key Themes Emerging

The Committee identified several recurring themes throughout the discussion:

- Experiential learning is already a significant institutional strength.
- Improving visibility, access, coordination, and recognition represents an important near-term opportunity.
- Future growth should be phased, realistic, and aligned with institutional capacity.
- Faculty engagement, support, and recognition remain important considerations.
- Communications and storytelling will play an important role in building awareness and participation.
- Data collection, reporting, and measurement will support future planning and decision-making.

Recommendations

The Committee:

1. Supported the overall direction of the project and the proposed phased implementation approach.
2. Recommended shifting from broad consultation activities toward implementation planning, prioritization, and institutional engagement.
3. Supported continued development of departmental pathways and future engagement with academic units.
4. Recommended continued refinement of experiential learning criteria, standards, and recognition processes.
5. Encouraged the development of a communications strategy that includes experiential learning stories and examples.
6. Identified faculty recognition and support as an important long-term consideration for future discussion.

Action Items

Action Item**Lead**

Refine project materials to reflect a transition from consultation toward implementation planning and engagement.

Project Team

Continue development of departmental pathways and prepare for Fall 2026 academic engagement activities.

Project Team

Review experiential learning criteria, standards, and recognition processes for future discussion.

Project Team

Develop an initial communications and storytelling approach to support awareness and engagement.

Project Team

Explore baseline participation measures and future reporting indicators.

Project Team

Consider future discussions regarding faculty recognition and support related to experiential learning activities.

Project Team /
ELAC

Next Meeting

Date: TBD