

Dalhousie Conference on
University Teaching and Learning

CREATIVE TEACHING (AND LEARNING!)

May 2 and 3, 2012



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

One of the hallmarks of teaching at the postsecondary level is the intellectual freedom we enjoy in finding creative ways to help students achieve success in their learning. For some, the thought of creativity as an almost “mystical” characteristic (Haring-Smith, 2006) is intimidating. For others, it is the mystery of creativity that engages and excites both faculty and students. Like many other human phenomena however, research makes the mysterious more accessible. There are several research-based dimensions of creativity that are relevant to understanding how we can foster creativity in our teaching and in our students’ learning. The first dimension is personal: qualities such as openness to alternatives, self-reliance and risk-taking that predispose us to creative thinking. A second dimension is cognitive: “Creativity involves the ability to synthesize. [...] It is a matter of sifting through data, perceptions and materials to come up with combinations that are new and useful” (Florida, 2002). A third dimension is social: creativity thrives when our social environment enables crossing disciplinary and social boundaries and supports sustained efforts to achieve creativity (Haring-Smith, 2006). The 2012 Dalhousie Conference on University Teaching and Learning will focus on the many ways that effective teachers bring together these personal, cognitive, and social aspects of creativity in their teaching and in cultivating students’ creativity in expressing their own knowledge.

Faculty, graduate students, librarians, student services professionals, and educational developers are invited to discuss their insights about creative approaches to teaching and learning in and across disciplines. Presentations may be based on research findings, theory and practice in learning and teaching, and/or specific tools and strategies that speak to the theme of the conference.

Colleagues are invited to submit proposals for sessions that address questions such as:

- How can creative learning experiences motivate students to undertake deeper and more meaningful learning?
- What are the most effective creative learning activities you use to help students develop expertise in your field of study?
- What are some of the most creative assignments or projects you use to assess learning?
- How does interdisciplinary work foster creativity in teaching and learning?
- What is the impact of cultural diversity on fostering creativity in your classes?
- How do you and your students use technology to take more creative approaches to teaching and learning?

- What are some of the creative approaches you use to build essential academic skills such as critical thinking, research, writing or numeracy in your discipline?
- In what ways can we use artistic expression to enhance student learning?
- Do you have an example of how creative approaches encourage student engagement in learning?
- Have you taken creative approaches to connecting learning experiences within or across courses?
- How do your partnerships with colleagues and/or community members and/or students promote creative teaching and learning experiences?
- How have you used learning experiences outside conventional classroom settings in creative ways?
- How can we create teaching and learning environments that encourage (rather than dampen) creativity?

Proposal submission deadline: Monday, February 27, 2012.

Session Formats:

Interested individuals are invited to submit proposals for 50-minute sessions that may be offered in a number of different formats, including:

Interactive Presentations. The presentation format is designed for sessions that describe examples of creative approaches to teaching and learning and their impact on student learning, a conceptual tool that you have found useful, or a systematic inquiry that you may have conducted on the impact on student learning of a particular strategy. Presentations may have multiple authors. Presentation proposals should include opportunities for interaction and discussion.

Interactive Panels. Panel sessions are designed to foster discussion by illustrating different points of view. In a 50-minute time span, several presenters (one of whom will serve as a moderator) will present issues pertinent to the conference theme, and the moderator will facilitate discussion among the panelists and the audience.

Workshops. The workshop format is designed to provide a forum for the collaborative development and discussion of creative approaches to teaching and learning. Workshop proposals should clearly indicate how participants will actively contribute to the session.

Roundtables

Roundtable sessions will provide opportunities for more informal and open-ended discussions related to the theme of the conference. Roundtable hosts will provide a framework or scenario for discussion and facilitate a group of colleagues in a conversation to explore or resolve that topic.

Poster Presentations

Poster presentations are an opportunity to visually portray and share beneficial practices or research findings relevant to the conference themes. Posters should be self-explanatory, but presenters also will be present during the poster session to engage interested colleagues in discussion.

Accepted presenters will be eligible for a reduced conference rate.

Proposal Submission:

Complete your submission off line using the template below and e-mail the completed document as an RTF attachment to <clt@dal.ca> with DCUTL Submission – [yourlastname] in the subject line.

Heading from web page for DUCTL Conference

Principal Presenter

First Name:

Last Name:

E-mail:

Work Phone:

Fax:

Institution Mailing Address

Principal Presenter Biography (75 words or less)

Co-Presenter 1 (if applicable)

First Name:

Last Name:

E-mail:

Work Phone:

Fax:

Institution Mailing Address

Co-Presenter 1 Presenter Biography (75 words or less)

Co-Presenter 2 (if applicable)

First Name:

Last Name:

E-mail:

Work Phone:

Fax:

Institution Mailing Address

Co-Presenter 2 Biography (75 words or less)

Session Information

Title of Session:

Session Type

- 50-minute presentation
- 50-minute panel
- 50-minute workshop
- 50-minute round table session
- 50-minute poster presentation

Abstract (200 words or less)

Technical Requirements

Rooms are equipped with laptop computers, projection screens, white boards, and data projectors. Please fill in any **ADDITIONAL** needs in the space provided.

Criteria for Submission Review and Selection

Submissions will be peer-reviewed by the program committee. Criteria by which submissions will be assessed are provided below to guide the development of your proposal:

- clearly stated goals
- relevance to the conference theme and intended audience
- appropriate approach, given the objectives and format
- evidence of critical reflection
- contribution to scholarship and/or effective practice(s) in teaching and learning

Submission Deadline

Monday, February 27, 2012