

EDC Grant Midterm Report

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Title of Project:

In recognition of complexity: A comprehensive professional development protocol for university teaching

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Overview of the project:

University teaching is a complex activity that is a culmination of many factors. Each instructional context brings with it its own set of unique variables. The assessment and support of university teaching, therefore, has to be comprehensive in scope yet dynamic enough to adapt to the multitude of contexts in which teaching and learning are carried out. Numerous studies have indicated that the assessment and support of teaching is a multifaceted activity that should utilize a number of data points in order to construct an accurate assessment of an educator's practice, leading to an effective and personalized professional development plan.

Researchers at Memorial University are conducting a meta-analysis along with original research on factors that are indicators of effective teaching and the methods used to assess them. The purpose of this project is to create a comprehensive and dynamic protocol that can be used to assess and

support university teaching. The protocol will focus on support rather than evaluation, providing educators and educational developers with an inventory of teaching skills and aptitudes for the purpose of reflection and the development of an effective and efficient professional development plan for educators at the university level.

Progress toward stated goals of the project at the midterm point:

The project is progressing nicely and we are on schedule to have a report completed by the end of the summer. To-date our research team has completed extensive literature reviews on effective teaching, faculty and student engagement, the peer review of teaching and teacher efficacy. We have also completed the data collection and coding of our own original research on teacher efficacy at the university level and faculty perceptions of teaching support. The results of this research will be included in the final report of our work.

We have a draft protocol that was presented for feedback at the 2015 EDC Conference in February. We were also accepted for a workshop session at the 2015 Windsor-Oakland Conference on Leading Change in Teaching and Learning.

We have applied for funding to conduct further research as a natural progression to this project. In our review of the literature on teacher efficacy we found very little specific to university teaching. We have applied for funding to do further research in this area with the intention to develop a University Teacher Efficacy Inventory. We are waiting for the adjudication of that proposal.

The work is progressing nicely and we expect to complete the report on time.

Barriers/challenges encountered and plans for problem-solving:

We do not foresee barriers or challenges to our process. We are confident that we can complete our project on schedule.

Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project, to date or planned

We presented a draft of our protocol for feedback at the 2015 EDC Conference in February. We were also accepted for a workshop session at the 2015 Windsor-Oakland Conference on Leading Change in Teaching and Learning in May. Unfortunately, for health reasons, we were unable to attend that conference. We will apply to present our completed work at the EDC conference for 2016 and will apply to other national and international conferences to present our work. The report will be published under a Creative Commons license and will be freely available in the fall. We will forward an electronic copy of our work to the EDC for distribution on your website should you want to do so.