

Foreword

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As members of McMaster University's senior leadership, we share a deep commitment to elevating the value of teaching as an integral and professional component of faculty careers.

This shared commitment builds on work undertaken between 2018–2022 to first review the function of teaching and learning at McMaster and then, in response, build strategic plans that centre teaching and learning as critical to the university's directions.

McMaster's strategic plan aims to "further advance and support innovation in teaching and learning, within and beyond the classroom, and across disciplines and Faculties, to elevate teaching as a professional discipline, and equip our students with the knowledge and skills needed to make a transformative impact on our world" (Office of the President, 2021, p. 8).

Embedded within the university's strategic plan is McMaster's first *Partnered in Teaching and Learning Strategy* that exemplifies a "shared, cross-campus commitment, which will bring forward new and transformative collaborations, more inclusive and accessible spaces, and unique opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom and outside the institution" (McMaster University, 2021, p. 1).

Throughout many of the chapters collected in this anthology we see instances where university strategies have enabled change in teaching and learning practices and culture at McMaster and other instances where it has been through the persistent efforts of individuals and small groups that change has taken place. We believe that the current alignment of both strategy and implementation support will enable meaningful change for teaching and learning at McMaster.

Throughout the development of these strategic directions, and now in the early implementation phase, we continue to see passion, enthusiasm, and commitment across our community in prioritizing the value of teaching outside traditional boundaries, working towards inclusive excellence, and in thinking creatively about our learning spaces.

McMaster's senior leadership is committed to working across all levels of the university to support our strategic aims and shared vision in the area of teaching and learning. We are

united in our efforts to “[c]ultivat[e] an environment where learning deeply matters and teaching is valued and recognized by the collective McMaster community” (Paul R. MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation, and Excellence in Teaching, 2018, p. 3).

Some may see our efforts to change how teaching is valued as a professional practice as a risky endeavour because culture change is hard to measure and even more difficult to report. But it is this willingness to try new approaches, to find new ways of reporting and storytelling, and to value the courage it takes to step outside familiar ways of doing and knowing that we seek to model for our community.

We have personally seen and felt the cultural change at McMaster. It is by taking time to pause and reflect on where we came from, to invite diverse perspectives, and to look forward to what is coming next that we can step into the future together, with intention and excitement about the change that we can cultivate and enact.

REFERENCES

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