



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Science

SKYLIGHT Annual Report 2019/2020



SKYLIGHT: The Science Centre for Learning and Teaching



We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam) People.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY


We are pleased to present Skylight’s third annual report, which highlights our key accomplishments between May 2019 and April 2020.

We had another successful year providing focused consultations and support on pedagogy, curriculum, learning technology, evaluation, and management and implementation of large-scale projects. We had **more than 2,500 participants at our events**; contributed to **5 peer-reviewed publications, 23 conference contributions, and 17 UBC-internal reports**; resolved **more than 7,000 learning technology tickets**; worked with **more than 430 faculty and staff**; supported **24 faculty members in their paired teaching efforts** impacting courses in five departments; and collaborated on **more than 130 projects**, of which 20% was part of our efforts for the Student Diversity Initiative at Science. Our **event on Indigenizing STEM Teaching and Learning** was of particular interest to many, emphasizing the importance of this topic. The success of this event led us to develop our **Skylight Lunch Series**, a new event series offered during the lunch hour that is more inclusive of faculty unable to attend evening events. We also developed, administered, and analyzed a set of **grad student, faculty, staff, and alumni surveys** that have been an essential part of UBC Science’s strategic planning efforts.

With the onset of the COVID-19 epidemic in mid-March, we pivoted our efforts to supporting remote teaching efforts of Science colleagues, and will be reporting those efforts next year.

As we continue to provide support and make progress on our diverse set of services, we thank you for reading our report, and wish you all the best in your teaching and educational leadership as we navigate these uncharted territories of online teaching in the 2020/2021 academic year. We look forward to continuing to work with you.




Dr. Gülnur Birol, Director




Dr. Warren Code, Associate Director

TEAM UPDATES

We said goodbye to **Rachel Petrynko** and welcomed **Jenny Wong** as Learning Technology Analyst.

Eric Jandciu went on leave for a year, and **Ashley Welsh** was seconded to the Strategist, Teaching & Learning Initiatives role. **Manuel Dias** was promoted to the Faculty Liaison role during Ashley's secondment.

Sarah Bean Sherman received the prestigious President's Staff Award for her efforts in advancing diversity and inclusion, and for her personal achievements and contributions to UBC and its vision and goals.

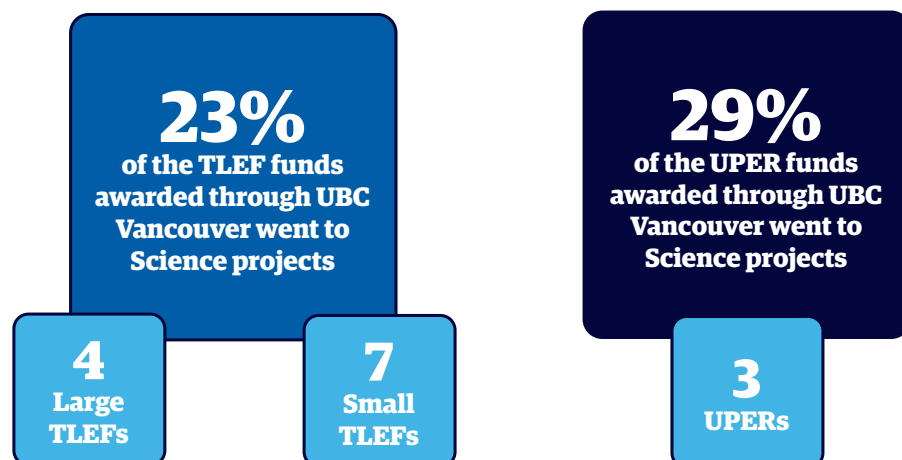
Erika Borys was the recipient of the 2019 Dean's Office Excellence in Administration, Service and Leadership (EASL) Award for her excellence in service.

SERVICES & SUPPORT

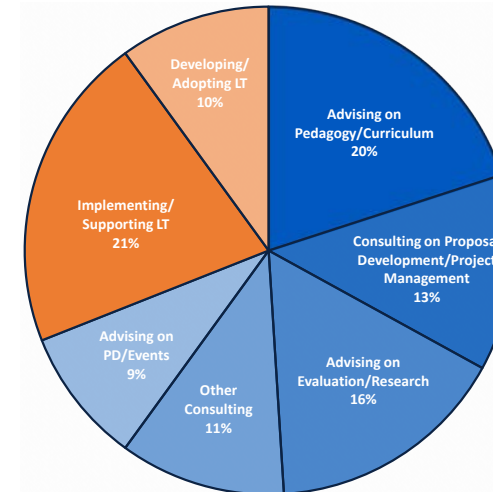
Through our consultations, collaborations, and engagement with faculty on teaching and learning projects, the Skylight team worked with **423 unique faculty and staff**, impacting **153 undergraduate science courses** spanning all years and UBC Science programs and accounting for **63% of Science undergraduate course enrollments (approximately 54,000 enrollments)**.

Department	Number of Courses in 2019/2020	Student Enrollments in 2019/2020
BOTA/ZOOL	20	9,816
CHEM	22	8,554
CS	23	11,763
EOAS	45	6,743
MATH	15	9,590
M&I	2	410
PHAS	19	6,519
STATS	2	599
Other	5	835

TLEF & UPER PROJECT SUPPORT (2020 FUNDING COMPETITION)

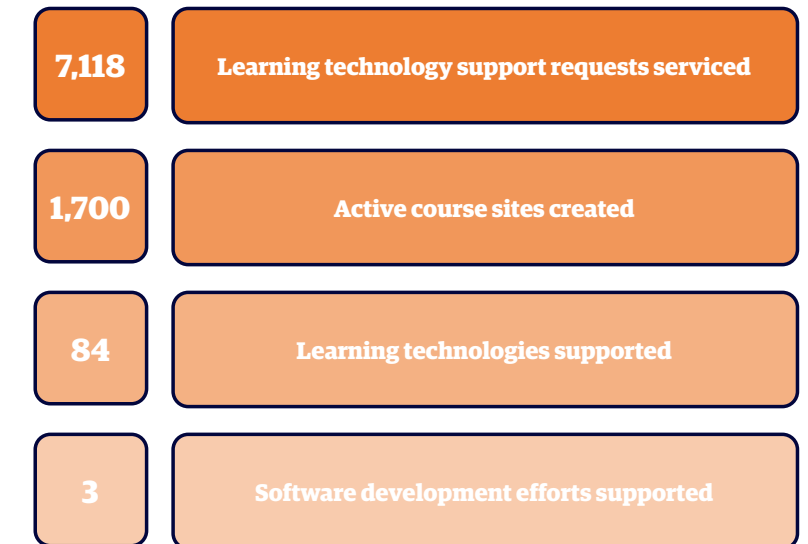


CONSULTATIONS



We provided consultations for 226 unique faculty members (~36% of UBC Science faculty), **impacting 102 courses representing ~42,400 student enrollments**.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES ECOSYSTEM SUPPORT & CONSULTATIONS

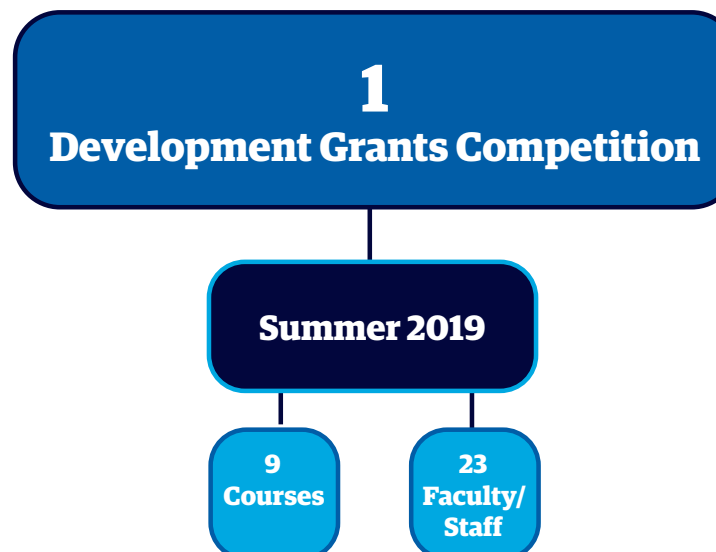


TEACHING AND LEARNING PROJECTS

Skylight team members worked with **142 unique faculty and staff on 136 different teaching and learning projects** with varying degrees of complexity and scale, with the ultimate goal of improving student learning and experience. Some of these projects received institutional funding while some of them are grassroots faculty projects undertaken without funding.

SKYLIGHT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Skylight received 10 proposals requesting a total of nearly \$28,000 in the 2019 Summer competition. **We awarded nearly \$24,400 in total to 9 proposals.**



Summer 2019

Department/Program	Grant Holder
CHEM	Jaclyn Stewart
CS	Oluwakemi Ola
EOAS	Roland Stull
MICB	Marcia Graves
PHAS	Jared Stang & James Charbonneau
Science Advising	Erin Green
Science Gateway	Nolan Bett
STATS	Bruce Dunham
ZOOL	Robert Harris

RESEARCH & DISSEMINATION



COMMITTEES & ORGANIZATIONS



Last year, we continued sharing our work with the broader science education community. We were invited to give **1 talk and 6 workshops**, and we generated **17 UBC-internal reports and 1 external report** to inform strategic decisions involving teaching and learning.

EVENTS



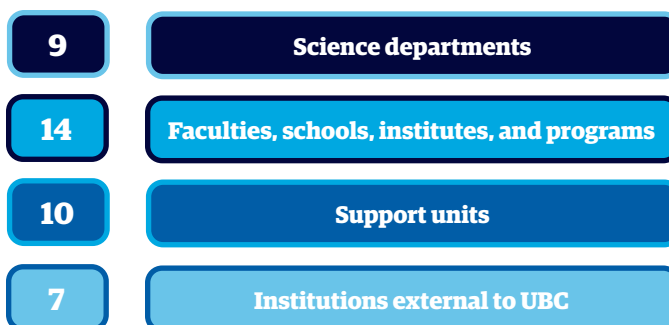
PARTNERSHIPS

STUDENT PARTNERSHIPS

We worked with:

- 2 Graduate Academic Assistants
- 2 Co-op Students
- 7 LTRs (Co-op Students)

PARTNERSHIPS



ONGOING PROJECTS

STUDENT DIVERSITY INITIATIVE AT SCIENCE

We continued our efforts in making substantive progress toward all undergraduate students feeling included in the UBC Science community and equitably supported in their success.

Some highlights from last year include:

- **20% of the teaching and learning improvement projects** having an EDI focus
- A comprehensive **needs analysis**
- **Support for students, staff, and faculty** in existing EDI affinity groups in Science departments
- **A workshop on mitigating bias** in graduate student admissions in PHAS
- **Thriving in STEM - 2SLGBTQIA+ Perspectives**, a student-focused event

We congratulate Margot Hessing-Lewis et al. for proposing incorporating Indigeneity into a course, and Elisa Baniassad et al. for proposing visualizing inclusion to support equity in student group learning, both of which were funded by TLEF.

TEACHING STARTUP

We congratulate **24 faculty members** who successfully completed the program in the 2019/2020 academic year, with support from our SESSs.

Fall Term

Trevor Campbell & Tiffany Timbers (DSCI 100)
 Ali Ameli & Uli Mayer (EOAS 329)
 Ziliang Ye & Simon Bates (PHYS 117)
 Alison Lister & Alannah Hallas (PHYS 101)

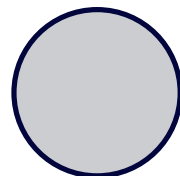
Spring Term

Jackie Dee & Anuli Uzozie (BIOL 121)
 Rachel Germain & Laura Parfray (BIOL 230)
 Kenji Sugioka & Geoff Wasteneys (BIOL 362)
 Karina Mochetti & Steve Wolfman (CPSC 103)
 Andrew Roth & Cinda Heeren (CPSC 221)
 Joel Sayler & Stuart Sutherland (EOAS 222)
 Jamie Cutts & Lucy Porritt (EOAS 223)
 Jess McIver & Georg Rieger (PHYS 118)

SKYLIGHT FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL



Sunita Chowrira
Professor of Teaching
(BOTA)



Eugenia Yu
Associate Professor of
Teaching (STATS)



Costanza Piccolo
Associate Professor of
Teaching (MATH)



Gregory Dake
Associate Professor (CHEM)



Joss Ives
Associate Professor of
Teaching (PHAS)



Marcia Graves
Associate Professor of
Teaching (M&I)



Stuart Sutherland
Professor of Teaching (EOAS)



Rachel Pottinger
Associate Professor (CS)



Gülnur Birol
Director (Skylight)



Warren Code
Associate Director (Skylight)



Sara Harris
Associate Dean, Academic
(ex-officio)

Faculty Advisory Council Members provided input and advice on **SDI@Science, the learning analytics fellows program, and the pathways project**. They also participated in the Skylight's self-study conducted in November 2019, and in a workshop exploring Skylight's learning technology support model. In addition, many of the faculty members continued to supervise the work of the Science Education Specialists in their departments.

MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE DEAN, ACADEMIC

The Skylight team's support of evidence-based pedagogy across the Faculty of Science continues to be broad, deep, and proactive. Members' work on course-level pedagogy; curriculum development and revision; special teaching and learning projects like TLEFs; the Student Diversity Initiative at Science; professional development for new and experienced faculty; facilitating conversations about decolonization and Indigenization in courses and curriculum; and other efforts have continued to improve the learning experience for students and the teaching experience for faculty in Science. At the end of the period covered by this report, UBC and universities across the world had to rapidly adapt to the circumstances of a global pandemic. During this time of abrupt transition and uncertainty, Skylight's staff members and leadership did a tremendous job supporting faculty to complete courses online, keeping student learning and engagement at the forefront. The crisis tested Skylight's embedded expert model, which proved to be a strong and resilient structure to meet the many new challenges. I am extremely impressed by the dedication and expertise of the Skylight team.

-Sara Harris, Associate Dean, Academic



Annual Report Enquiries

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General Information

Please visit <https://skylight.science.ubc.ca/about> to download our prospectus, *Advancing the Science Behind Education*.

Photography

Hover Collective; Paul H. Joseph; Jamil Rhajjak / UBC Brand & Marketing

skylight.science.ubc.ca

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