

Appointment - Academic Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

02/06/2020



To the University community,

As we look ahead to what might be a challenging fall semester for teaching faculty, CBU is trying to realign its resources to provide greater assistance and extra support. With that goal in mind, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Rod Nicholls as the Academic Director of CBU's Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL). This appointment not only responds to the current challenges in teaching and learning, but is an action item identified in our Academic Plan, adopted in January 2020, with the goal of expanding the capacity of the CTL for long-term benefits.

Dr. Nicholls has a long-standing connection with the CTL. In 1998, he chaired the committee which recommended the establishment of the Centre and he has firmly supported the essential services it offers to faculty ever since.

Dr. Nicholls, currently an Associate Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Humanities, is respected among faculty, staff and students for his teaching expertise. He was an active participant in the Association of Atlantic Universities Teaching Showcase in the years after it was first established. And, in 2006, he was the recipient of the CBU Instructional Leadership Award.

His service at CBU includes terms as Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies; Speaker of Academic Council (now Senate); Vice-Principal Academic, Unama'ki College; and Dean of Arts and Social Sciences. He has been a member of every major teaching and learning-related committee at CBU and is presently chairing the Senate mandated Quality Assurance Self-Study Committee for the CTL.

In the short-term, the CTL will play a central role in helping all full and part-time faculty with the pressing issues of on-line course design and pedagogy. With Dr. Nicholls' leadership, the skilled and committed CTL team will continue to work with faculty in a collaborative and open way. The summer will no doubt be starting with lots of discomfort and foreboding, but there's good reason to think that will turn out to be a learning opportunity which will significantly enhance CBU's teaching and learning environment in the long-term.

We welcome Dr. Nicholls to this important role with the CTL.

Yours very truly,

David C. Dingwall
President & Vice-Chancellor