

Faculty R&R 2026 Concurrent Session Descriptions

MORNING SESSIONS (11 AM - 12 PM)

Concurrent Session 1: *Campus Walk 'n Talk* with Andrea Pepper (*Please bring water/hat/sunscreen/umbrella)

Reflect & Rebalance Walk. Reward yourself and reconnect with colleagues with a walk at your own pace along the walking trail around the college. Surrounded by familiar campus spaces and fresh air, this is a chance to slow down, recharge, and engage in meaningful conversations about teaching and learning. As you walk, reflect on this year's retreat theme—Reflect & Rebalance—by considering what is working well in your teaching practice and where adjustments may be needed. Conversations might focus on finding balance between innovation and sustainability, aligning workload with well-being, or refining approaches to better support student learning. Talking points will be provided to help guide discussion and spark ideas. Possible topics include rebalancing assessment strategies, thoughtfully integrating AI into coursework, enhancing student engagement, supporting diverse learners, or strengthening interdisciplinary connections. *Rain or Super Sunshine!* Please wear comfortable footwear and bring water, a hat or umbrella, and sunscreen as needed.

Concurrent Session 2: *Teaching with Generative AI: What We're Seeing, What's Changing and How We Can Adapt* with Scott Briscoe

The tools are getting better, student use is becoming more common and it is becoming harder for faculty to rely on simple indicators or detection tools alone. Generative AI is already in our classrooms, and faculty are being asked to manage it in real time. This session will take a practical, honest look at how students are using tools like Claude, ChatGPT, Gemini and Copilot, what signs may suggest AI-assisted work and why detection tools alone are not enough.

The focus is not fear, punishment or turning faculty into investigators. Instead, this session will give faculty realistic strategies they can use right away to create clearer expectations, reduce conflict with students, make student thinking more visible and better manage inappropriate AI use. Faculty will also explore simple, repeatable practices that can help standardize how we respond to AI while still preparing students to use these tools responsibly in future professional settings. The goal is to leave with practical ideas that make teaching with AI more manageable, fair and sustainable.

Concurrent Session 3: *Building Campus Culture, Early Intervention, and Shared Responsibility for Creating Safer, More Inclusive Learning Environments* with Laura Crowley

This session will highlight how to manage and respond to various student needs, including behaviours, disclosures (sexual violence and IVP), harassment. The session

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will briefly review the Code and Campus Care, but also explore the idea of using case examples to demonstrate how to navigate a few different scenarios. Attendees will gain an increase confidence in managing student behaviours, utilization of policies and processes already established, understanding of how to navigate various situations, and limits and abilities within their role (and within the College).

Concurrent Session 4: *How Early Literacy Research Conducted by ECE students was Intentionally Embedded into Program Outcomes* with Kathie Tait-Rayner

This session will include a discussion on a research project carried out by students from the ECE program and their instructors. The presenter will discuss the research study and the impact that this has had on the students and community partners. This session will allow attendees to consider innovative ways to connect with students and how to help students connect with the content of their course. Attendees will be able to consider possibilities around research projects and the value of learning through experience within our community and in the classroom.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS (1PM – 2PM):

Concurrent Session 5: *Yoga* with Ashley Waugh, The Shala Yoga & Meditation Studio

Join Ashley from The Shala Yoga & Meditation Studio for a rejuvenating session focused on grounding, mindful movement, and self-care. This session is offered to help you de-stress, relax, and reconnect with your body. Through a balanced, accessible yoga practice, we'll flow at a slow, gentle pace, with an emphasis on breathing, mindfulness, and reflection. Whether you're new to yoga or an experienced practitioner, this class is welcoming to all levels.

Concurrent Session 6: *Navigating Classroom Management: Strategies for Everyday Teaching* with Brian Nairn

Classroom management is a key component of our daily teaching routine, and some days are easier than others. In this interactive workshop we will use the space to discuss and brainstorm common classroom management scenarios, share our strategies and experiences for building a respectful environment, and provide resources to support us through the sometimes unpredictable nature of managing a classroom.

Concurrent Session 7: *Grading with Confidence: Designing Your Blackboard Ultra Gradebook* with Paul Del Rizzo

Build confidence with Blackboard Ultra grading in this practical, hands-on session focused on building an effective Gradebook. Designed as a guided, follow-along

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experience, participants will create and organize gradebook components in real time—setting up categories, adding assessments, and configuring grading settings aligned with their course outline. Faculty will also create a weighted total column to accurately reflect student progress and practice assigning and updating grades efficiently. To get the most out of this session in preparation for Fall, consider bringing a course outline for a course you currently or will be teaching!

Concurrent Session 8: *Teaching for All: Practical Accessibility Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms & Labs* with Jennifer Johns and Ryan Rusich

Create learning environments where every student can participate fully and succeed. This practical workshop helps faculty apply the AODA and Human Rights Code in real teaching situations, whether you are in a classroom, lab, or online space.

Learn what some effective accommodations look like, how to collaborate confidently with Accessibility Services, and how to design accessible materials that reduce barriers before they appear. You'll gain practical strategies you can use immediately to support learners while maintaining academic integrity.

Perfect for faculty who want to strengthen their teaching, meet legal obligations, and build inclusive learning environments that work for everyone.