

Teaching Excellence at the University of Toronto



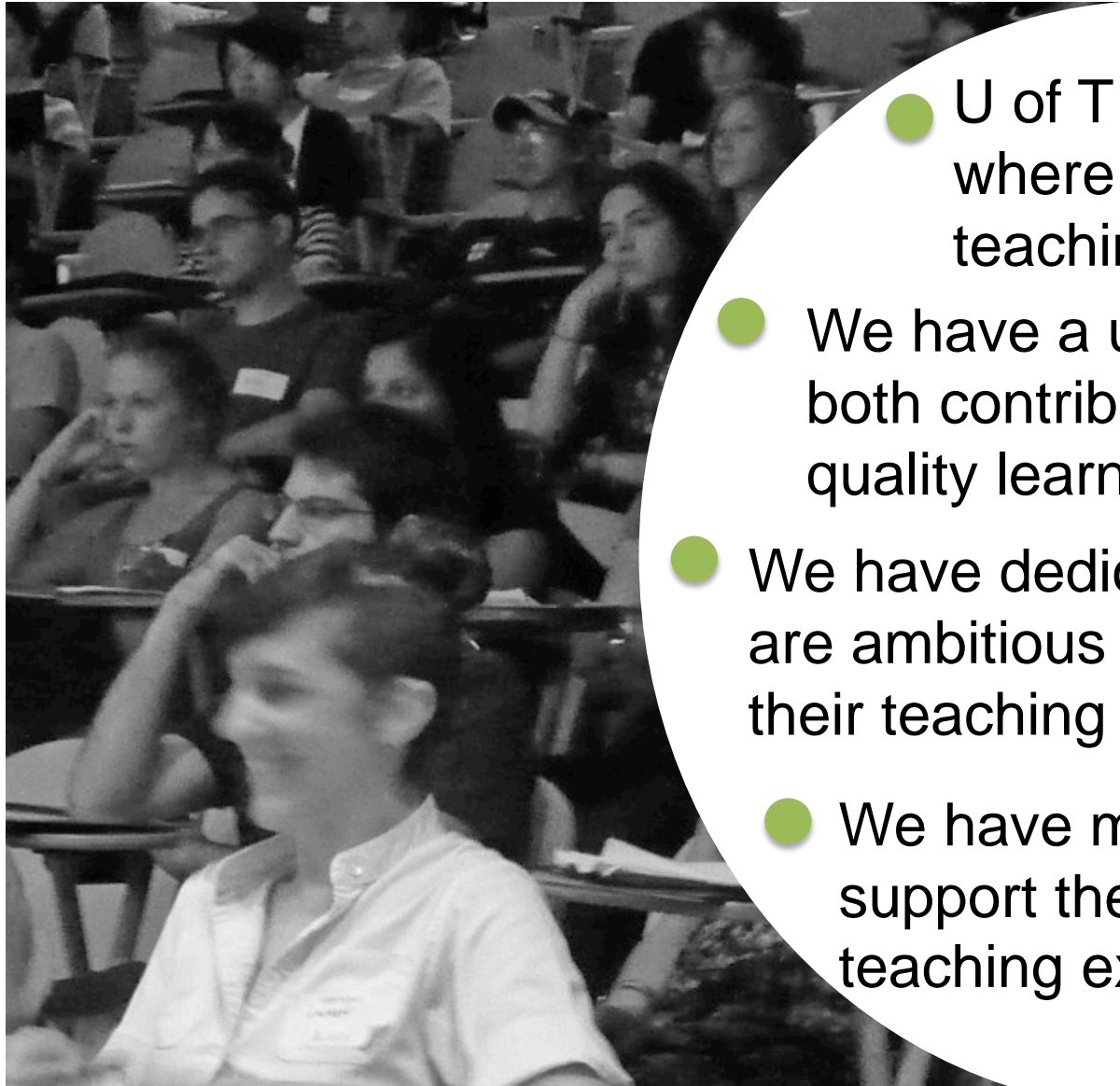
OVERVIEW

U of T context: A research-intensive University that develops and supports excellence in teaching at multiple levels

Examples of U of T **initiatives** that are driving teaching excellence and enhancing our culture of teaching

Integrating our teaching and research excellence at U of T to enhance student learning and provide **leadership for teaching**

OUR CONTEXT



- U of T is a great university – where both research and teaching are valued pillars
- We have a unique student body that both contributes to and expects high quality learning experiences
- We have dedicated instructors who are ambitious and motivated to raise their teaching sights
- We have multiple mechanisms to support the development of teaching excellence

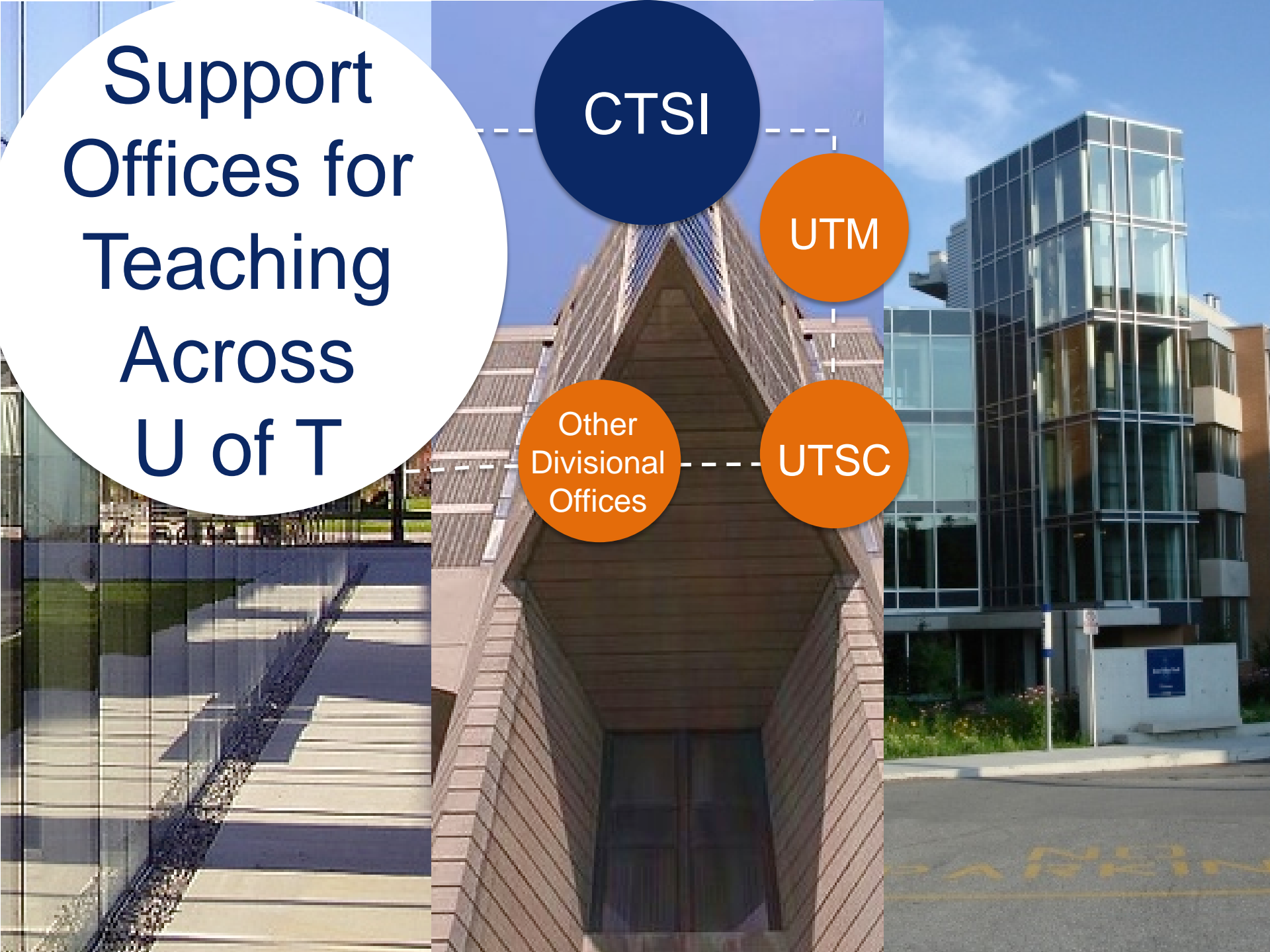
Support Offices for Teaching Across U of T

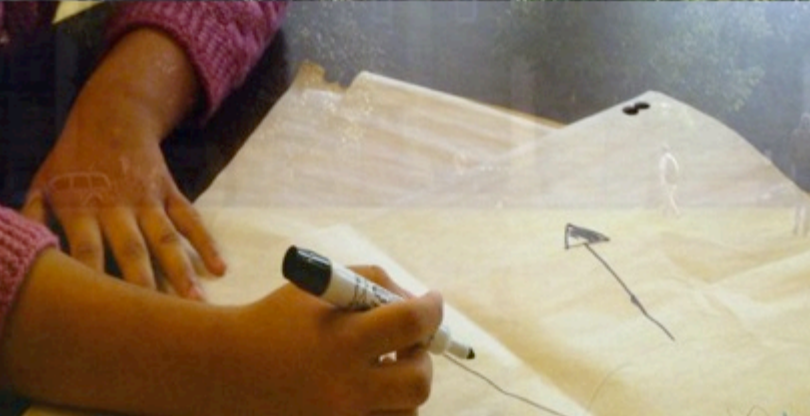
CTSI

UTM

Other
Divisional
Offices

UTSC





SUSTAINING

A culture of teaching excellence

Necessitates a Tri-Level Approach

- Individual
- Departments/Divisions
- University

CULTIVATING

Teaching Excellence: Examples

- 1) President's Teaching Award & the Teaching Academy**
- 2) Course Evaluation Framework**
- 3) The Teaching Assistants' Training Program (TATP)**

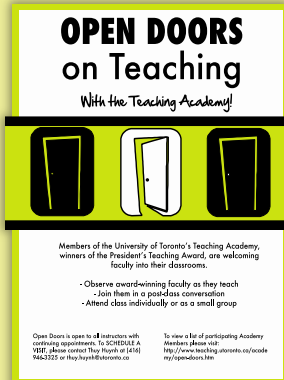


1. President's Teaching Award & The Teaching Academy



- Highest teaching honour at U of T, recognizing sustained excellence in teaching, research in teaching, and the integration of teaching and research
- Each recipient also designated by the University as a member of – ***The Teaching Academy*** – an advisory group to the President and Provost, and to the Director of CTSI
- As teaching advocates they participate and lead various initiatives and profile the University's commitment to high-quality teaching and learning

THE TEACHING ACADEMY: Examples of Initiatives



Open Doors:
Observation of
classes taught by
Teaching Academy
members, followed
by discussion.



Teaching
Matters:
Ongoing series of
articles/videos
highlighting
teaching
innovation at U of
T



Large Class
Teaching:
Sub-committee
development of
workshops and an
online module
(videos and print
resources).



2. A New Course Evaluation Framework

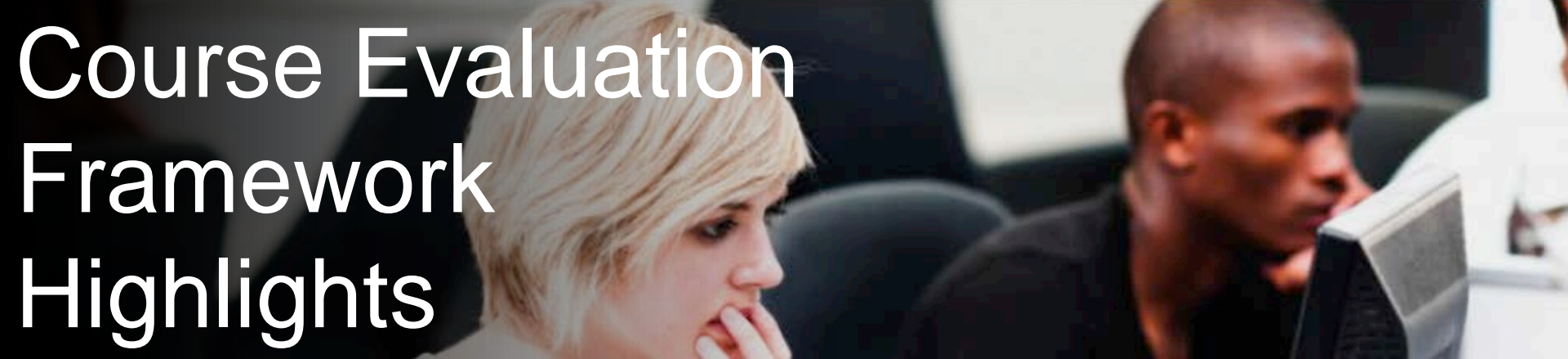
1. Broad consultation by a provostial working group - evidence based institution-wide reform of policy and practice
1. Adoption of a **SINGLE, CENTRALLY SUPPORTED, CUSTOMIZABLE ONLINE** system.
1. New framework provides data at the institutional, divisional, departmental, and instructor levels – for formative and summative purposes.

Evidence-based
Education Leadership

Innovative

Higher

Course Evaluation Framework Highlights



Students appreciate the *quality* of the new questions and the *ease* and convenience (time and privacy) of the online system!

All of us care about sustainability.

Students have the opportunity to communicate their experiences and know that their feedback matters.

3. TEACHING ASSISTANTS' TRAINING PROGRAM (TATP)

What we do....

- CUPE-Mandated First Contract Training for TAs and Course Instructors
- Year Long Workshop Series
- Fundamental & Advanced Certificates in University Teaching

Developing graduate students' teaching expertise....

- Syllabus & Assignment Design
- Leading Tutorials/Labs
- Effective Marking
- Crafting a Teaching Dossier
- Equitable Classrooms
- Teaching Study Skills
- Complying with University Policies
- Interactive Classrooms

CREATING

A Strong Community of Teachers



FOCUS



informed by institutional data (e.g., NSSE, GSSE) and research on teaching

CONCRETE



initiatives to focus university-wide action

TARGETING



areas for improvement

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS & EVENTS



TA & Instructor Workshops!



Teaching & Learning Symposium!



New Faculty Orientation



FACULTY ENGAGEMENT IN TEACHING INCLUDES...

- Graduate Student Supervision
- Classroom Observations
- Consultations
- Teaching Dossier Review
- Use of Technology
- Teaching Strategies
- Assignment and Course Design

and more!

REDEFINING

The Classroom:

Educational Technology at U of T



FLEXIBLE

Access

10 new fully online
undergrad courses in
past year

EXPANDED

Instructor Toolkit

Support for lecture
capture & webinar
options

NEW

Pedagogical Models

Flipped, blended
& Massively Open
Online Courses
(MOOCs) pilots

TEACHING AWARDS

Our Excellence Recognized



14 Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations Awards (50% of total awards in Ontario in the past 5 years)

7 3M National Teaching Fellowships

30 President's Teaching Awards (since 2006)

Yearly TATP Teaching Excellence Awards

2 teaching teams have won the national The Alan Blizzard Award



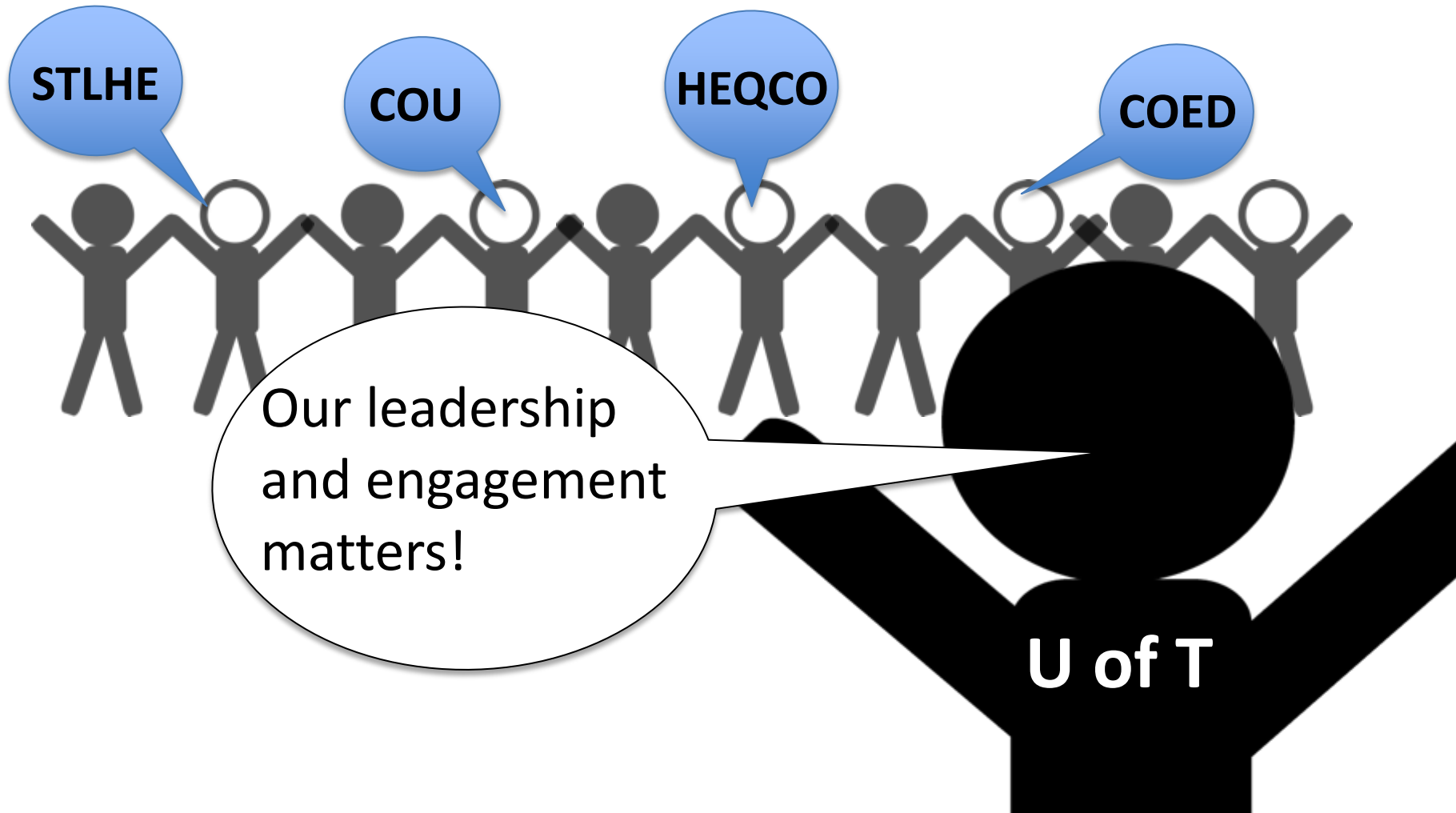
PEDGOGICAL RESEARCH

Using U of T
teaching
expertise to
influence the
broader teaching
and learning
environment!

- increase in externally funded projects
- workshops, institutes consultations
 - conference presentations
- annual Provost's Instructional Technology Innovation Fund

ENGAGEMENT

With the Broader Teaching and Learning Community in Higher Education

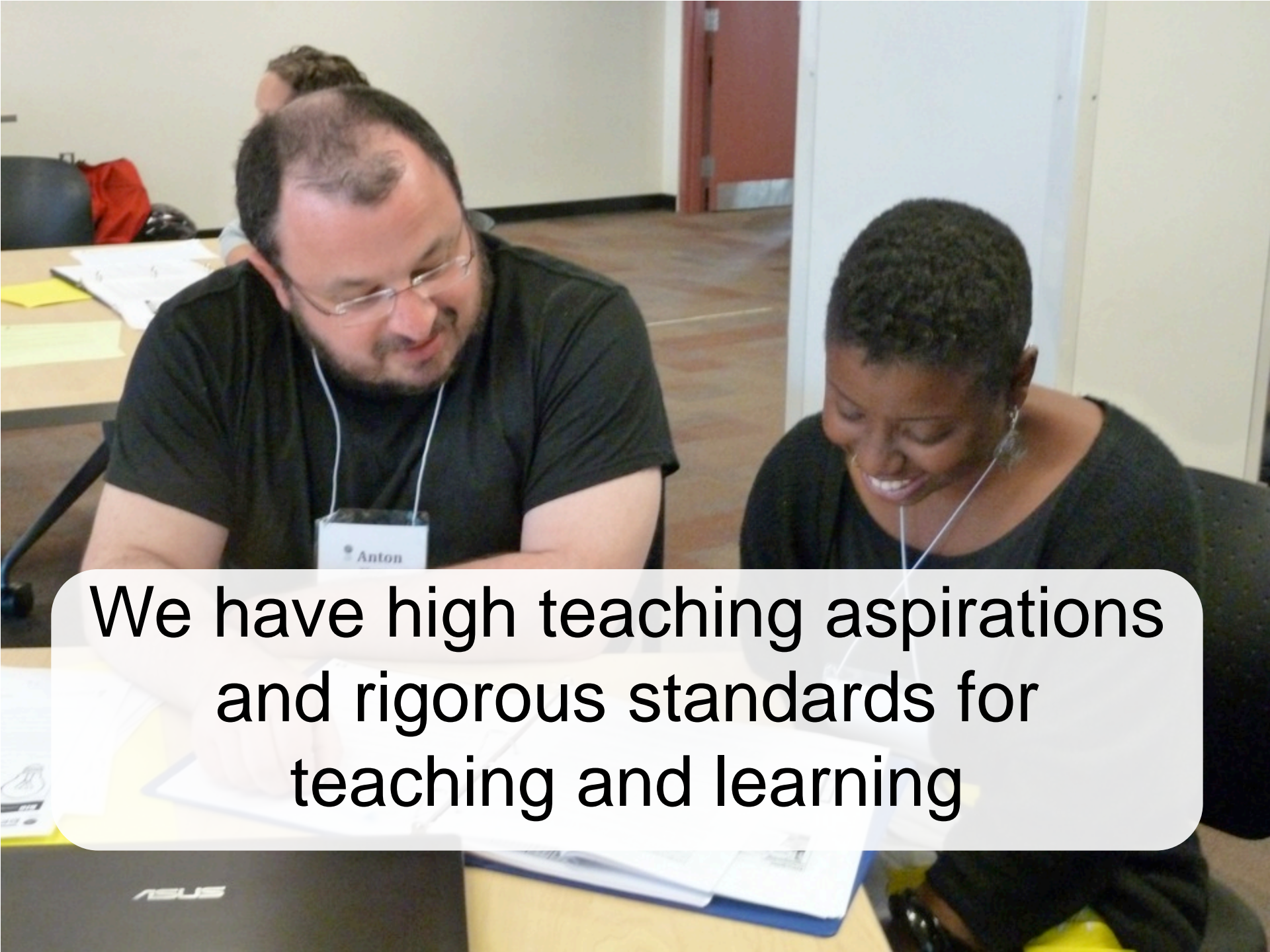


LEADERSHIP FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE



We are a thriving community of
teacher-researchers






**We have high teaching aspirations
and rigorous standards for
teaching and learning**



Our leadership for teaching impacts policy and practice

A photograph of a man with curly hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, sitting in a wooden chair in a lecture hall. He is looking towards the front of the room. Other people are visible in the background, also seated. The room has wood-paneled walls.

Great teaching,
like great
research is a
constant quest.



Questions & Comments



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation

www.teaching.utoronto.ca