

Gail and Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in Learning Disabilities
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY
TERMS OF REFERENCE
CHAIR IN LEARNING DISABILITIES

Submitted to CAPP, October 6, 2008

1.0 Overview

The Chair in Learning Disabilities has been created as part of the Capital Campaign of Mount Saint Vincent University through support from individual donors, professional educators, parents and learners and the Government of Nova Scotia. It demonstrates the commitment that Mount Saint University has made to research best practices in the field of learning disabilities and assist the educational community with the implementation of these practices.

2.0 Purpose and Objectives

The primary purpose of the Chair in Learning Disabilities is to conduct and communicate research into best practices to address the academic, personal and social strengths and needs of children and youth with learning disabilities. A secondary purpose is to offer insight based on the above research into the implications for teacher education, teacher professional development and educational policy development.

Given the above purpose, the objectives of the Chair in Learning Disabilities are:

- 2.1 To conduct research by designing and implementing a research program aimed at gaining further insight into the nature of learning disabilities and the nature of best practices to address the academic, personal and social strengths and needs of children and youth with learning disabilities.
- 2.2 To support the development and enhancement of a research culture within the Faculty of Education and at MSVU with a particular emphasis on children and youth with learning disabilities through selected means such as faculty seminars and consulting and/or collaborating with colleagues and students in the design, development, implementation, analysis and reporting of research.
- 2.3 To promote and communicate research into best practices on learning disabilities to local, national and international audiences through various means such as: reports of the Chair, publications in scholarly and professional journals, strategically oriented faculty and graduate student seminars, the hosting of periodic professional and/or research conferences/talks, a regularly updated web site, electronic and print newsletters and through other public relations activities such as public talks, class presentations and/or other appropriate public relations events.
- 2.4 To communicate, collaborate and/or consult with local, national and international colleagues who have a similar research program in learning disabilities. To work with national and international research networks and organizations.
- 2.5 To communicate, collaborate and/or consult with the broader professional and advocacy community relative to research based effective strategies in the delivery of services and best practices to children and youth with learning

disabilities. Such groups include school boards, provincial Ministries of Education, learning disabilities associations, international educational ministries.

- 2.6 To support graduate student research through supervision of graduate theses and/or participation on graduate thesis supervisory committees.
- 2.7 To teach courses and contribute to the curriculum in the Faculty of Education at MSVU on learning disabilities or other related topics at the B.Ed. and/or graduate level. No more than one full unit of teaching per academic year would be expected.
- 2.8 To operate the office of the Chair in Learning Disabilities and to direct the activities of a research assistant/office manager as funds permit.
- 2.9 To prepare an annual report on the activities of the Chair to be submitted to the Advisory Committee for the Chair.
- 3.0 Advisory Committee for Chair in Learning Disabilities

3.1 Membership

3.1.1 Chair: Dean of Education

3.1.2 Faculty Representation: Two faculty members of Mount Saint Vincent University, with research interest in learning disabilities, appointed by Senate on the recommendation of the Senate Nominations Committee.

3.1.3 External Representation: Two internationally recognized scholars in the area of learning disabilities recommended by the Dean of Education.

3.2 Duties:

3.2.1 To nominate candidates for the Chair to the Selection Committee for the Chair in Learning Disabilities established under the terms of the Joint Committee for Administration of the Collective Agreement between MSVU and MSVUFA.

3.2.2 To advise and support the Chair on research activities, symposia, conferences and international networks.

3.2.3 To receive the annual report from the Chair.

3.2.4 To submit an annual report to Senate

- 4.0 Fund Administration - The Chair in Learning Disabilities Endowment Fund will be held by Mount Saint Vincent University. The administrator of the fund will be the Vice-President, Academic or her designate. Donations to the endowment fund may be received by Mount Saint Vincent University.