Supporting Teaching Assistants to Enhance Teaching Practice

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Session Objectives & Overview

Session Objectives

▪ Discuss a training program that supports new tutors
▪ Identify the benefits and challenges of the program
▪ Propose strategies for developing and/or enhancing training programs
▪ Provide participants with guidelines and resources to develop or enhance their own training program
First thing.. Log into our QuickPoll

1) Visit the following webpage:

http://qp.unimelb.edu.au/valeriec

2) You should see the following page:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 1</th>
<th>Question 2</th>
<th>Question 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do teaching assistants need</td>
<td>Do your teaching assistants</td>
<td>Should training be compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>training?</td>
<td>receive training?</td>
<td>for teaching assistants?</td>
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<td>Please respond</td>
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<tr>
<td>A: Yes</td>
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<td>B: No</td>
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<td>C: Somewhat</td>
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The WCLA Tutor Training Program

▪ **Tutoring in Business & Economics (TBE) is a compulsory training program for new Faculty tutors.**

▪ **Program Aims**
  
  – Help tutor develop knowledge of good practices in teaching and learning;
  
  – Provide tutors with individualised feedback on their teaching
  
  – Equip tutors with practical classroom skills
  
  – Provide a forum for collegial learning and development
Role and Responsibilities of Tutors

The key roles and responsibilities of tutors are:

- Conduct tutorials
- Mark assignments and exams
- Be available to students through consultation hours
- Other duties (i.e., subject specific requirements)
The WCLA Tutor Training Program

Three components for successful completion:

1) Attend and participate in all scheduled seminars and skill-based workshops
The WCLA Tutor Training Program

2) Preparation and formal submission of two tutorial session plans

3) Full engagement in the peer mentoring/review process
Inviting ‘Friendly’ Critiques

Would the WCLA program be relevant to your institutions?

Discussion Activity

- **Group 1:** Which aspects of the WCLA program would useful at your institutions?

- **Group 2:** What would be some challenges of rolling out the WCLA program at your institutions?
Successes and Challenges

Some reflections on:

Peer Mentoring
“Having someone provide specific and timely feedback on my teaching was absolutely invaluable”

Exposure to Teaching Practices
“Since this was my first time tutoring, the program provided me useful skills and tools”

Collegial Support
“Meeting other tutors to discuss common points of difficulty, particularly in facilitating engagement”

Some reflections on:
Small Group Activity

Activity

- **Group 1:** Prepare pitch to your Faculty leadership team about the benefits of a compulsory tutor (or TA) training program.
- **Group 2:** Prepare a pitch to your tutors (or TAs) about the benefits of a compulsory tutor (or TA) training program.
- **Group 3:** Prepare a pitch to your school/department about the benefits of a compulsory tutor (TA) training program.
- **Group 4:** Review the topic schedule in the WCLA tutor training program and make suggestions.
Summary

- Review outcomes of the session and takeaways
- The future of the WCLA program:
  - Modes of delivery
  - Continue program evaluation
  - Ongoing training for experienced tutors
  - PD rollout with academics
Thank you