

## Technology (and the TLDC) to the rescue to maintain teaching and learning

Addressing the media on 18 March 2020, MUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, said the institution would use technology to ensure that teaching and learning continued despite the COVID-19 pandemic. “To reduce the heavy reliance on the contact mode of teaching, the University will strengthen its use of Blackboard, which is an online software to enhance teaching and learning,” said Dr Malaza.

The University’s Teaching and Learning Development Centre (TLDC) is at the coalface of this digital way of teaching and learning, and has crafted a plan that will be used to train MUT academics in the delivery of online lectures. Cebo Nyondo, E-learning and Educational Technology Specialist at the TLDC, said the plan was to capitalise on the current expertise available at the University by leveraging the experience of staff members that are already familiar with Blackboard (one of the technologies that MUT has been using for some time).

“In the current situation, the focus is on how the teaching and learning activities will be moved to an online environment, thereby implementing a distance learning approach. The TLDC is proposing a structure that will be followed for all courses. By way of implementation, we will provide training to all who require it during the recess period and will extend this initiative even after contact sessions resume,”



Cebo Nyondo

said Nyondo. He said the proposed structure adopts the “constructive alignment” approach advocated by Professor John B. Biggs. “This will help in developing courses that will mimic the nature of contact sessions and thereby create an interactive learning environment,” he concluded.

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