

Quality Enhancement Project

Since early 2014 around 100 staff members and students of MUT have been involved in task teams engaged in the Quality Enhancement Project. This national project aims to enhance the quality of teaching and learning at Higher Education Institutions, and specifically to enhance (1) academics as teachers, (2) student support and development, (3) the learning environment, and (4) course and programme enrolment. Even though the baseline report was submitted in September 2014 to the CHE, the task teams continued to meet. An overview of challenges and plans as identified by the task teams has been drafted and was tabled for the APC meeting in the third cycle of statutory meetings. In February 2016 MUT is expected to submit the institutional report to the Council on Higher Education.

Both the Institutional Improvement Plan and the QEP are excellent ways to involve the MUT community and so gain broad buy-in and input into the further development of MUT.

Alignment of Programmes with the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF)

The Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) as approved by the Minister has been aligned with the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF). It was submitted to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in mid-January 2015. We are awaiting approval. Once the HEQSF-aligned PQM is approved, the current National Diploma Programmes will migrate to Diploma Programmes, as per the HEQSF. In the meantime preparation is continuing to develop programmes that will replace the current six BTech programmes, since these do not form part of the HEQSF.

Monitoring of Marks Changes

In response to one of the recommendations of the 2012 Audit report which expressed concern that the unauthorised changing of marks posed a serious risk to MUT, in 2013 a system to monitor the changing of marks was introduced to all academic staff and faculty officers. This system emphasised the individual lecturers' accountability. After every semester QMD staff scrutinises thousands of pages on the ITS to manually spot the changes. The resulting monitoring reports are sent to the relevant HoDs with a copy to the Dean for their consideration and action. These are clearly quality issues, and, hence, the reports are discussed in the Faculty Quality Assurance Committees and Faculty Board meetings.

OMBUDSMAN

Since 2015 the Students Ombudsman has been part of the QMD. In this time the Students Ombudsman has

investigated and successfully resolved a number of cases brought before him and recommendations have been made to the VC and the DVC: Teaching and Learning. This is an important function in the MUT community because it provides students and management with an instrument to resolve serious student grievances. The Terms of Reference have been drafted and benchmarking with other UoTs has been done. The function has been formalised as an acting function.

5.11. Significant Developments and Achievements in the Teaching And Learning Development Centre

In 2015 TLDC hosted a number of workshops/seminars which were attended by MUT's academic and support staff members. The purpose of these workshops were to create a platform for the MUT community to engage on issues concerning the teaching and learning enterprise. These workshops and seminars included among others the Graduate Attributes Seminar and Teaching and Learning Strategy workshop. The TLDC hosted the Graduate Attributes Seminar on the 26 January 2015, which was held at Garden Court in Durban, was facilitated by Dr Lori Breslow, the Director of the Teaching and Learning Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. Prof Chris Winberg from Cape Peninsula of University of Technology (CPUT) located the seminar as part of the national collaboration of the South African Technology Network (SATN) on graduate attributes. In line with the graduate attributes, the DVC: Teaching and Learning organized a two-day workshop to provide space for academic leaders to create a blueprint to be adopted by the institution. This engagement took place on the 09-10 March 2015 at Zimbali Lodge on the KZN North Coast. During the workshop the Faculty Deans presented the draft proposals pertaining to the teaching and learning strategy. This paved the way for the recently adopted MUT Teaching and Learning Strategy 2015-2019.

As part of creating the platform for the teaching and learning conversations, the TLDC hosted the 2015 Annual Teaching and Learning Colloquium, which was followed by the Vice Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Awards. In pursuit of excellence, the TLDC developed the Teaching and Learning Colloquium webpage which was to be used by colloquium participants for registration purposes. The webpage was completed in November 2015. It was developed as a marketing tool for the subsequent Annual Teaching and Learning colloquia.

Professional Development Initiatives

The TLDC as a custodian of the Teaching Development Grant (TDG), has been instrumental in facilitating the professional development of staff on a number of fronts. The Teaching and Professional Development Unit (TPDU)