

in the TLDC coordinated a number of staff development workshops. These workshops include E-learning seminar, Assessment in Higher Education, Pedagogical Training, Learning Materials Development, and MUT First Year Experience Consultative Workshop (FYE).

These initiatives help to capacitate academics in improving their teaching practices, and TLDC hopes they will go a long way in inducting and capacitating the academics participating in the New Generation Academic Programme (nGAP). The nGAP is a Department of Higher Education programme which aims at attracting and supporting the new generation of academics in South Africa. At MUT, the coordination of the nGAP is the responsibility of the TLDC and it is delegated to the TPDU. In 2015 the TPDU successfully led the coordination of the hiring of the nGAP scholars and all the posts allocated to MUT were filled.

The first ever e-Learning Seminar took place on the 17th of September 2015. Its focus was to explore possible approaches to the use of online educational resources at MUT. Dr Arno Louw, an esteemed researcher in E-learning from the University of Johannesburg was invited as guest speaker. The seminar also included reflections from MUT staff members who were active in using blended learning. The seminar proved to be a resounding success with an attendance of approximately 60 academics and academic support staff members. Subsequently, the project of the long awaited installation of Smart Classrooms started in earnest in October 2015 to support the teaching and learning using the eLearning platforms. This was a pilot project which saw nine classrooms being configured to be smart classrooms.

On the 27 March 2015 the TLDC hosted the FYE Consultative Workshop which took place at the Coastlands Hotel in Musgrave. FYE have progressively gained a strong position in South African Higher Education over the past three years. This is due to global recognition of the success of the concept in improving retention and throughput rates in higher education. Mrs Motsabi, the FYE Coordinator from University of Johannesburg skilfully facilitated the workshop.

Apart from the workshops and seminars, the TLDC continued to provide the coordination of the Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education (PGDHE) which is offered to academics through Rhodes University and University of KwaZulu-Natal. In 2015 eleven academic staff members completed the PGDHE whilst nine enrolled for the 2015/16 academic year. According to the reflection reports the participants indicated that the programme has empowered them with the skills and knowledge they needed in their own respective disciplines.

Student Development and Support Initiatives

The TLDC continues to facilitate student support initiatives

which is housed mainly in its two units, i.e. Academic Literacy and Language (ALLU) unit and Mathematics and Science Education Unit (MSEU). A number of student development and support initiatives was undertaken in the 2015 academic year and are summarized per unit below:

Mathematics and Science Education Unit (Mseu)

The MSEU discharged the following activities in pursuit of student development and support:

- The development of a new tutorial manual in a similar fashion to the material for the Numeracy and Quantitative Skills Development course for Maths I. This tutorial manual will supplement the existing study material and will be undergoing further reviews in its adoption through the TLDC Material Development initiative.
- The coordination of the Mentorship Programme which was successfully run across seven-programmes in six departments, i.e. Civil Engineering and Survey; Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Agriculture; Nature Conservation and Mechanical Engineering. The mentorship activities help to establish the programme as an integral part of the interventions required for academic support.
- The establishment of the collaboration with SA Women Engineering programme. This initiative resulted in MUT participating at the Girl Engineering Information Session held at UKZN on the 9th of May 2015. This programme is meant to mentor and support female students in the Engineering field nationwide.
- The recruitment of new tutors to replace those who went for in-service training was taken care of. These new recruits had Master's degree and some were pursuing PhDs in their disciplines. With this, MUT students stood a change to benefit enormously from the knowledge and experience of these newly recruits.
- The continuous identification of at-risk students using the Higher Education Data Analyzer (HEDA). HEDA generates data and reports which informs the monitoring and the support of at-risk students.
- The coordination of the Test of Academic Literacy Levels (TALL) in the first semester of 2015. Profiling test. The TALL was administered to first-time entering students, and was customised to assess both the academic literacy and basic numeracy skills. It was administered successfully by the ICELDA team in collaboration with MUT colleagues to a cohort of students in February 2015.

Academic Literacy and Language (Allu)

ALLU discharged the following activities in pursuit of student development and support: