

## Teaching and Learning Enhancement Workshop for AKU Faculty 2016

### Introduction

AKU aspires to provide high quality teaching and learning and this is clearly articulated in its Teaching and Learning Framework (Policy 031). This aspiration is further evidenced by the various programmes in existence in some entities to support faculty towards this end. However, whilst the programmes do provide faculty with the theoretical knowledge base on best practices on teaching, they fall short on actually engaging faculty in real teaching experiences within the training so as to provide them with the opportunity to translate their knowledge into practice. Further, these programmes are discipline specific and therefore tend to focus on 'signature pedagogies' linked to those particular disciplines. A faculty needs assessment conducted by the Network of Teaching and Learning (TL\_net) in 2014 attests to the foregoing. The survey showed that only 49% of AKU faculty had taught before joining AKU. It further showed that 65% of those surveyed wanted to learn ways of facilitating engaged student learning. Further, 70% had no access to pedagogical or lesson planning support of any kind.

### Aims and Outcomes of the Workshop:

The workshop aims to support participants develop increased competence and confidence as facilitators of learning as well as provide them with resources to be more reflective about their teaching. Rather than aim to 'introduce' participants to pedagogical approaches and strategies; it will, instead, seek to consolidate their understanding and use of these pedagogical approaches and strategies by focusing on assisting faculty to turn their knowledge into actual teaching moments within simulated classroom environments.

This will be achieved through providing participants with opportunities to:

- Work closely with peers to improve each other's teaching;
- Practice a variety of instructional strategies and techniques through micro teaching;
- Increase awareness of participatory learning concepts;
- Connect with colleagues from different disciplines;
- Experience the diversity of a contemporary and flipped classroom;
- Recognize the importance of establishing a positive learning environment;
- Increase knowledge of self as a teacher; and,
- Create a community of practice with other educators and TL\_net for support post the workshop.

### Key Elements of the Workshop:

**Overall Focus:** The workshop will provide the basic instructional skills required to teach in an AKU environment as espoused by the Teaching and Learning Framework.

**Multidisciplinary:** The workshop will target faculty from across all disciplines in AKU therefore providing a rich multi-disciplinary context within which to learn about teaching.

**Nature of Participation:** During the workshop, each participant takes on the roles of both instructor and learner. When delivering a lesson, the participant becomes an instructor but when one is delivering a lesson, the other participants become learners. Hence, there are no 'casual observers' in this workshop as everyone participates fully, including the facilitators of the workshop.

**Learning Thrust:** The proposed workshop will require participants to use a six-phase lesson plan model to deliver a series of 'mini-lessons' to each other in a mutually supportive small group. The six-phase lesson basics comprise: Bridge-in (B); Objective/Outcome (O); Pre-Assessment (P); Participatory Learning (P); Post-Assessment (P); and, Summary/Closure (S). It is commonly referred to as BOPPPS. Feedback will be provided verbally, in writing, and by means of video recording. This approach emphasizes learning as

well as instructing, and therefore transforms the instructor into a facilitator of learning. This development is facilitated through reflection on practice.

The workshop is modelled along the well-recognised Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) programme offered in many universities, largely in Canada and the USA, but also around the world, including Asia and Africa (see <http://iswnetwork.ca/>).

### **Target Participants**

This workshop is compulsory for all faculty new to AKU (those employed for five years or less). However, older more experienced faculty can also participate as the format of the programme is flexible enough to accommodate faculty from a wide-range of disciplines and experience levels across AKU campuses.

Due to the intense nature of the workshop, only **30** participants can take part in one workshop.

### **Facilitators:**

The workshop will be facilitated by facilitators drawn from AKU faculty who will be specially trained by experts from Western University to facilitate the workshop.

### **Certification**

A certificate for successful completion of the workshop will be awarded to participants by ISW.

### **Dates and Venues**

For East Africa faculty - 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July, AKU-IED Dar es Salaam.

For Pakistan faculty – 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept, Karachi.