

Academy Matters

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The Teaching Academy welcomes 7 new fellows who were inducted at the University Awards ceremony on 04 May 2012.

Welcome on Board



Prof A Kumaralingam



A/P Hooi Shing Chuan



Dr Adrian Michael Lee



Dr Lee Kooi Cheng



Dr Lo Mun Hou



A/P Joseph Ooi Thian Leong



Dr Soo Yuen Jien

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Academy Project on Student Feedback



The recommendations from NUSTA's Student Feedback subcommittee were presented at the March 2012 PVO's Deans Meeting. The recommendations were broadly well-received at this meeting. Some ideas/suggestions were also provided to the committee – the committee will deliberate on them and include them in the final report as well as during the implementation process.

At the meeting, Provost asked the subcommittee to publicise their findings and recommendations at different Faculties/Schools beginning with the larger Faculties (FASS, FoS and FoE).

A Teaching & Learning Club (TLC) event for NUS Faculty was conducted on 14th March in which about 35 Faculty members attended and provided useful feedback.

Committee members Goh Say Song and Sow Chorng Haur have already presented the committee's work to the FoS leadership and obtained their feedback. Laksh has made presentations to the FoE Faculty Board on 24 May 2012 and to the Engineering Undergraduate Program Advisory Committee (EUPAC) on 29 May 2012. The presentation for FASS is scheduled for August 2012.

In addition, PVO has highlighted the importance of having a student outreach event perhaps through TLC. This would facilitate sharing information on the importance of active and responsible student participation in the student feedback exercise and how teaching assessments are being utilised/will be utilised in NUS – the TLC session with students was held on 21st May.



Subcommittee members

Lakshminarayanan Samavedham (Co-Chair)
Victor Tan (Co-Chair)
Goh Say Song
Daphne Pan
Seah Kar Heng
Sow Chorng Haur
Yap Von Bing
Zhou Weibiao



Academy Project on Peer Review

After a lengthy and comprehensive review process, the NUSTA Subcommittee for the Review of the NUS Peer Review (PR) Procedure has completed a report detailing its findings and recommendations for improving the current PR system. These findings were achieved through a series of regular subcommittee meetings, an online survey of NUS teaching faculty, a Teaching and Learning Club discussion session, a focus group discussion with representatives of the various faculties and Faculty Teaching Excellence Committees, and exchanges with representatives and invited scholars from the Centre for the Development of Teaching and Learning.

The subcommittee identified key issues related to the current PR system such as the appointment, accountability and preparation of reviewers, the anonymity of reviewers and the impartiality of PR reports, the purpose of PR (as a summative or formative tool), as well as the perceptions of faculty members about the value of the PR exercise and of teaching in general at the NUS. To address these controversial issues, the subcommittee has formulated 10 recommendations in the report, the most important of which are listed below:

- To reaffirm the importance of PR as a tool of summative assessment which will serve to triangulate the evaluation of teaching. The PR is seen as a vital and necessary complement to student feedback and the faculty members' dossiers.
- To provide a structure for the quality assurance of PR reports. PVO, Deans and Heads of Departments need to monitor the quality of PR reports more closely, and to recognize the contributions of peer reviewers and to take their performance into account during annual review.
- To make the PR process anonymous to enable more frankness and objectivity in the PR reports.
- To reaffirm the value and importance of good teaching to the University and one's career advancement, and to foster more positive attitudes towards teaching.

The subcommittee has presented its key recommendations to the Provost and Deans at the Dean's Meeting in March 2012. It will now seek to submit the final report with the full findings and recommendations in June 2012 to the Provost's Office for its consideration and possible implementation.

Subcommittee members

Chan Wai Meng (Chair)
Victor Tan (Co-Chair)
Farooq Shamsuzzaman
Johan Geertsema
Lim Lum Peng
Narayanan Ganapathy
Tan Kay Chen

Peer Review Workshop conducted by CDTL

Peer Review subcommittee member, Prof Farooq Shamsuzzaman offering his views at the workshop titled 'Are You Ready to be Peer Reviewed?: Preparing for the "Classroom Observation" component' conducted by CDTL on 11 April 2012.



IT in Education

The IT in Education subcommittee is working on an initiative to use mobile “smart” telephones and tablets for educational purposes.

To that end, the committee has:

(I) Conducted a study trip to the USA from 2 to 6 of April, 2012

The team comprised:

1. A/P Erle Lim, Chairman of Executive Council, NUS Teaching Academy and Chair, IT in Education
2. A/P Johan Geertsema, Member of Executive Council, NUS Teaching Academy
3. Prof Bernard Tan, Associate Provost (Undergraduate Education)
4. Mr Ong Chin Hwa, Senior Associate Director, Computer Centre
5. Mr Tan Kee Sin, Principal System Analyst, Computer Centre
6. Mr Kenneth Gerard Pinto, Educational Technologist, Centre for Instructional Technology

They visited:

1. Apple’s Executive Briefing Centre in Cupertino
2. University of California, Berkeley – Berkeley Educational Technology Services
3. Abilene Christian University
4. Stanford University – School of Medicine, Simulation Center and Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge

From 27 to 29 April, A/P Erle Lim and Mr Ong Chin Hwa attended Apple’s Educational Leadership Summit in Geneva. During the summit, they visited CERN and were briefed on initiatives by educational leaders who have used smart mobile technology to enhance teaching.

Subcommittee members

Erle Lim Chuen Hian (Chair)
 Bernard Tan
 Farooq Shamsuzzaman
 Johan Geertsema
 Lakshminarayanan Samavedham
 Victor Tan
 Loy Hui Chieh
 Ravi Chandran
 Ong Chin Hwa

(II) Invited Apple to conduct an Apple Learning Tour on 22 May 2012

Apple and the IT in education subcommittee conducted a hands-on session with MacBook Pros and iPads featuring Apps, iBooks, and iTunes U Content to update select group of the NUS Teaching Community on lessons learned during the 2 study trips. The group intends to organise a workshop for NUS faculty and students to further develop educational initiatives.



A short presentation by Mr Paviter Singh from Apple Inc.

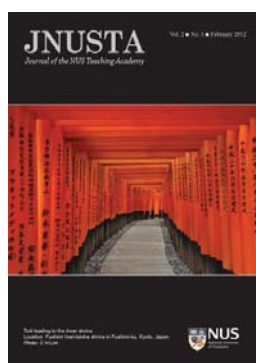


Participants (including Provost and Assoc Provost) at the Apple Learning Tour having a hands-on session

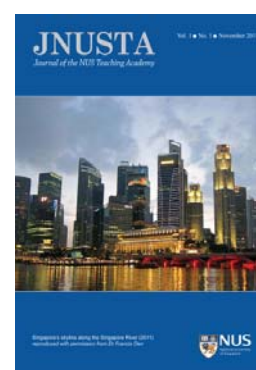
Journal of the NUS Teaching Academy (JNUSTA)

JNUSTA is a peer reviewed, quarterly online educational journal which focuses on the theories and practices circulating within institutions of higher learning. It provides a forum for educators from across the disciplines to showcase pedagogical innovations, present original research in teaching, assessment, and methodologies, and to discuss the teaching of core or life skills (such as critical thinking and communication skills; and issues of ethics and professionalism for example) that characterise a competent university graduate in a global economy. *JNUSTA* wishes to encourage dialogue between, and the interaction of, discipline-specific needs and approaches even as contributors pay attention to overarching debates in education today. It also wishes to serve as the platform for work resulting from academia-industry collaborations, where appropriate.

Since the launch of *JNUSTA* in Nov 2011, 3 issues have been published online. The inaugural issue (Vol. 1. No. 1) focused on the theme, “Global Education”. The first issue also featured an online forum, which discussed “Global Citizenship and Global Education - what do they mean and how do they refer to the increased diversity of the student and staff population in our universities?”.



The second issue (Vol. 2 No. 1) was published in February 2012. The online forum discussed “Technology in a 21st century classroom: To Use or NOT To Use?”.



The third issue (Vol. 2 No. 2) was published in May 2012. A new topic was added to the online forum – “Asian education hubs with a global perspective”.



Subcommittee members

Erle Lim Chuen Hian (Editor)
 Johan Geertsema (Deputy Editor)
 Chng Huang Hoon
 Lakshminarayanan Samavedham
 Sow Chorng Haur
 Cecilia Lim
 Wu Siew Mei
 Peter Looker
 Rani Sumant Rubdy

All issues of *JNUSTA* can be accessed online at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/teachingacademy/jnusta/index.htm>. **The Editorial Board welcomes contributions of articles and invites you to share your thoughts on the online forum.** If you have any queries, please direct them to the Editorial Office at jnusta@nus.edu.sg.

Teaching & Learning Club

Key aspects of projects

Outreach is a centrally important activity for any organisation. It usually forms part of a larger, overarching communications strategy. The Teaching and Learning Club is an Outreach initiative of the NUS Teaching Academy (NUSTA). Some of our main aims are to:

1. discuss issues concerning Teaching and Learning in an open forum or in focus groups involving both faculty and students
2. mentor new faculty
3. bring the projects being carried out by the Academy to the attention of the NUS community
4. involve NUS faculty and students with the Academy

On the meetings involving faculty, in the course of the past two semesters we focused on the first of these aims by arranging a discussion to gather NUS faculty members' views on the changes to the Student Feedback system being proposed by the NUSTA subcommittee that has been studying this issue. In addition, we arranged a meeting involving both faculty and students to gather feedback on their experiences relating to General Education at NUS.

Notes of meetings held are posted on the TA website at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/teachingacademy/outreach.htm>. We are grateful for Vickneswari Savarimuthu and Yong Bee Choon's help in updating these pages regularly, and also for their invaluable help in arranging events.

Project milestones and timelines

Date	Detail
3 October 2011	TLC session for faculty and students focusing on General Education. Venue: CDTL
14 March 2012	TLC session for faculty, focusing on proposed revisions to the Student Feedback system. Venue: CDTL
21 May 2012	TLC session for students, focusing on proposed revisions to the Student Feedback system. Venue: CDTL

Problems/issues identified

Low attendance was one of the problems we identified in our previous update (2011). The good news is that attendance has improved substantially for the events held during the current academic year. We attribute this to three factors:

Targeted invitations to faculty members and / or students who have an interest in the particular topics being discussed. This strategy has proved its worth in both attracting more participants and achieving higher-quality discussions.

Change in time. Previously we tended to arrange meetings late in the afternoon or early in the evening, but our meetings over the last year have been over lunch. Perhaps this time works better for more people. It may also be that the CDTL venue where we have held our more recent events is accessible to more people.

Fewer events. We held only one event in the course of semester 1 of AY2011-2012 (on General Education) and two events in semester 2 (on proposed changes to the Student Feedback system). Our sense is that there is less 'event fatigue' as a consequence. Nevertheless, we are planning another event for this semester, but after the exams when there is less pressure on both faculty and staff. See "What's Next".

We believe that as the TLC builds up critical mass over the next years, attendance will improve further. Meanwhile, we are considering setting up a Facebook group and making use of IVLE to disseminate information and advertise events more widely. But advertising events is probably not the main problem, as often more people sign up to attend than actually arrive.

What's Next

We are planning two more TLC events for this semester.

- The next TLC session that we are planning for the current semester will be on IT in Education, at the request of A/P Erle Lim, chairman of the NUSTA. Currently we are thinking of an event in July or during the first semester of AY 2012-2013.
- In the slightly longer term, we are hoping to arrange a visit to the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School to discuss various aspects of TeamLEAD and Problem Based Learning.

Discussion on GE for Faculty & Students – 03 October 2011



A/P Lakshminarayanan Samavedham giving a short summary on GE



Participants breaking into "buzz groups" to discuss and share ideas



Discussion on Student Feedback with NUS Faculty – 14 March 2012



A/P Lakshminarayanan Samavedham giving an overview of the proposed changes to the Student Feedback System

Discussion on Student Feedback with NUS Students



NUS Students giving their views and sharing their concerns on the proposed changes to the Student Feedback System (discussion led by A/P Victor Tan)

Masterclass Speaker Series

Prof Lee Shulman, Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education Emeritus at Stanford University and President Emeritus of the Carnegie Foundation, was the Academy's inaugural Masterclass Speaker.

Prof Shulman visited NUS from 12 to 16 September 2011. During his 5-day visit, he was involved in a number of activities with Fellows of the NUS Teaching Academy, the Provost Office and the NUS teaching community. Some of the activities are highlighted below:

Monday, 12 Sep 2011

- Welcome and breakfast
- Lunch cum Fellows' meeting.
- Visit to Duke-NUS
- Meeting with Prof Tan Thiam Soon, Vice Provost (Education)

Tuesday, 13 Sep 2011

- The Academy Masterclass Speaker Series Public Lecture *The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* at University Hall Auditorium
A total of 84 academic staff attended the lecture. A video of this lecture can be viewed [here](#).

Wednesday, 14 Sep 2011

- Open Discussion session with faculty
A/P Jochen Wirtz, Dept of Business; A/P Lee Hong Sing, Dept of Business; A/P Ang Eng Tat, Dept of Anatomy; A/P Paul McNeill, Dept of Medicine; A/P Chng Huang Hoon, Director CDTL
- Meeting with Prof Tan Eng Chye, Provost and Deputy President (Academic Affairs)

Thursday, 15 Sep 2011

- Open Discussion session with the Faculty of Engineering group
- Meeting with Prof Lai Choy Heng Vice, Vice Provost (Academic Personnel)
- The Academy Masterclass Workshop *The Challenges of Assessment and the Three Apprenticeships of Education* at LT4
A total of 62 academic staff attended the workshop. A video of the workshop can be viewed [here](#).

Friday, 16 Sep 2011

- Open Discussion session with the Student Feedback sub-committee from the NUS Teaching Academy
- Visit to St Joseph's Institution

