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Subject: Panel Discussion

Proposal Type: Concurrent Workshop

Proposal ID#: 53783565

Title: How to Build a Student Wellbeing/Success Community of Practice

Abstract: This workshop explores thematic questions reflecting upon how to build a Student Wellbeing/Success Community of Practice. We integrated Self Determination Theory (SDT) wellbeing into curriculum to demonstrate how addressing needs of autonomy, relatedness, and competence can enhance intrinsic motivation, growth and change. We will lead interactive discussions around the following themes: whole of university approach; identifying stakeholders; sharing best practice; integrating into curriculum; adapting new SOTL and; evaluating new technologies. The workshop aims to generate wider interest and a publication process that incorporates membership from each of the ISSOTL regions.

Enhancing student wellbeing and success requires a 'whole of university' response allowing educators to build capacity and integrate resources into their curriculum [1,3]. To facilitate this, we established a Community of Practice (CoP) to identify, implement, evaluate and improve wellbeing-supportive strategies. Maintaining a clear focus on reviewing and generating evidence based SOTL research, our group has grown exponentially with links 'across faculty, student services and administrative and support units' [2] and emerged as a significant reference group contemplating the application of new technologies and reviewing the university's strategic initiatives.

Our 2019 staff survey confirmed that student wellbeing resources were unevenly accessible across faculties and that academics lacked confidence in how to integrate student wellbeing into their curriculum. Primarily through referral and constructive engagement with Equitable Learning Services, academic educators can support students with neurodiversity or mental health needs. Their main role, however, is to create learning-supportive curricular environments that lead to success and thus wellbeing. Wellbeing may be more effectively supported through the integration of student success

strategies 'creating a sense of community and belonging with safety to make mistakes, and scaffolding understanding of assessment and feedback' [4].

In conjunction with our Healthy Universities Initiative, a number of our CoP academics have shared their practice of integrating Self Determination Theory (SDT) into their curriculum. These examples place a particular emphasis on wellbeing/success strategies that build: (i) autonomy - cultivating a sense of choice & volition in regulation of behaviour; (ii) relatedness - feeling connected with and cared about by others and; (iii) competence - the sense that one has capacities valued by oneself or others [5]. Student surveys and focus groups are demonstrating the effectiveness of creating curricular environments that include diverse students and provide realistic academic motivation leading to need satisfaction. Wellbeing is then an enabler of further effective engagement, creating an upward spiral of success and wellbeing.

Conference Pedagogy: This workshop demonstrates the what, why and how of building a student wellbeing/success CoP. Using Slido.com as an interactive audience participation tool, the session will be organised as follows:
20 mins Introductory panel presentation
60 mins Thematic questions (10 mins each).
How to:
(i) make student wellbeing/success understanding across an institution?
(ii) identify stakeholders?
(iii) share best practice?
(iv) integrate into curriculum?
(v) reflect upon the SOTL of wellbeing/success?
(vi) evaluate the SOTL of new technologies?
10 Mins Propose a new ISSOTL Interest Group / Next steps