

9th February 2016

12:00 – 14:30

Present:	Nadia Maria Vassallo	Director Curriculum
	Robert Buttigieg	Coordinator
	Andrew Triganza Scott	Lecturer
	Audrey Gatt	Lecturer
	Elysia Marie Farrugia	Lecturer
	Joseph Cefai	Lecturer
	Joseph Cilia	Lecturer
	Orlando Bonnici	Lecturer
	Pauline Scicluna	Lecturer
	Rachel Bajada	Lecturer
	Rene Pace	Lecturer
	Rose Falzon	Lecturer

Minutes:

(Robert Buttigieg)

- The PD staff were addressed by the newly appointed Director Curriculum – Dr Nadia Maria Vassallo.
- The present members participated in a ‘needs analysis’, conducted by Dr Nadia Maria Vassallo.
- The coordinator informed the staff that as agreed upon the prior meeting (refer to minutes 6.1.16), the proposed content was presented to the Vice Principal Ing. Vince Maione. The outcome of the meeting was of a rather positive nature and the team

was informed that the current proposals are being backed up. Ing. Maione was briefed with the following:

1. Current developments with the new PD syllabus
 2. Content delivery – seminars, lectures, group interventions
 3. Assessment
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- Although Ing. Vince Maione stated that he does not normally favour a change in assessment in the middle of the academic year, he pushed the need for a move in this direction for the benefit of a more positive learning experience for the students. It was suggested that our current system of assessing students through attendance percentage and the conduction of a number of community work hours would be abolished starting from this very academic year (2015 – 2016). The majority of the PD staff opposed this idea and claimed that they will be following assessment procedures according to what was planned at the start of the academic year. In reaction to this, the coordinator asked the staff to refer to him in the case difficulty was encountered with the conduction of this particular assessment. This would comply with what has already been done with two groups in a particular institute.
 - Following the assessment proposals which were presented during the previous meeting (refer to minutes 6.1.16), the PD staff were also briefed about an additional assessment proposal (2016 – 2017), which constitutes the following:
 1. An on-going formative assessment based on the 5 main themes being addressed in the new syllabus. This would be solely based on observation of the students' participation & performance in class, which in turn implies that student attendance is a must.
 2. A reflective journal which the students would compile (with resources supplied in class by the PD lecturers) and elaborate upon throughout the whole academic year.
 3. A final presentation based upon any theme (even unrelated to what was discussed in class) chosen by individual students.

- In reaction to this proposal, a number of staff members expressed concern with regards to the abolishment of the 80% attendance 'criteria'. The majority of the members seemed to be suggesting that one of the main reasons students at MCAST attend PD lectures is potentially due to attendance. The coordinator discussed that through the adoption of the proposed ongoing formative assessment, the students would still be expected to attend PD lectures, unless they wished their final mark to be affected by their lack of presence in class. A number of staff members remarked that apart from the procedure being 'time consuming', unless the students are given a mark after each and every lecture, the whole idea of a formative assessment would be invalid.
- Additionally, it was also pointed out that the exclusion of the community work hours 'criteria' would also be inappropriate as a number of staff members claimed that a number of students find this practice rather benefitting, especially with regards to their CV. The coordinator discussed that ideally one could also consider to introduce community work as an option – this would enable students to opt for this experience willingly, rather than being forced to do so.
- The present members were informed that apart from level 1 – 3, PD is also being offered as an option at levels 4, 5 (subject to Institute Directors). According to the already present key descriptors, the subject is being addressed as 'Individual and Social Responsibility'. Complying with this, it is being considered to rename the subject to suggest a continuum between levels 1 – 5. This would also serve as a mark of transition between what is being experienced at Primary & Secondary.
- The staff agreed that there is still a lot to discuss, especially with regards to the new proposed assessment. Therefore it has been decided that everybody will be doing their homework and ideas will be brought up during our next PD meeting.

Next meeting:

16th March 2016

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 16th March 2016 @ noon**. The venue will be communicated at a later stage. We encourage each other to attend for these meetings as they are crucial for the development and revision of our subject.