



Faculty of Engineering Strategic Professional Development Plan for Blended Learning

Purpose

This document describes activities to be undertaken as part of the 3C Project to increase the use of blended learning approaches in the Faculty of Engineering. It focuses on the aims and objectives for the Faculty and sets out a plan of action to achieve identified goals.

Key Staff

The following staff were involved in the development of this Strategic Professional Development Plan for Blended Learning for the Faculty of Engineering:

Professor Alex Wai, Dean	Faculty of Engineering
Dr. Vincent Ng, eLearning Advocate 3C Project	Department of Computing
Dr Eric Tsui, eLearning Advocate 3C Project	Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
Mr Peter Duffy, 3C Project Leader	3C Project, Educational Development Centre
Dr Christine Armatas, Senior Project Fellow	3C Project, Educational Development Centre

Background

The 3C project is a 2 year institutional initiative at PolyU funded by VP(AD) in support of PolyU's strategic plan. The broad aim of the 3C Project is to enhance the eLearning / Blended Learning culture at PolyU. The approach used to address this is through the use of the 3 concurrent foci (3C) of collaboration, community and context. For more information please refer to www.3c.edc.polyu.edu.hk.

The activities described in this plan have been developed after consultation with the Dean, Professor Alex Wai and the two eLearning Advocates for the Faculty of Engineering – Dr Eric Tsui and Dr Vincent Ng.

Key Drivers

The Faculty is faced with a number of key challenges over the next few years, including the introduction of the 3+3+4 education model, outcomes-based education, Freshmen seminars and Capstone projects. The increased use of blended learning will assist in managing these key challenges by providing staff with skills and experience to help them to teach more effectively and efficiently, using new approaches that incorporate eLearning technologies. It is envisaged that staff will be able to use technology to enhance the teaching and learning experience both in and outside of class, and to help students become independent learners.

Aim of the strategy

The aim of the strategy is to provide a framework for the provision of support and training for staff in the adoption of blended learning approaches in subjects taught in the Faculty. This strategy is aligned with the Hong Kong PolyTechnic University Strategic Plan 2008/09-2011/12.



Professional Development Goals

The action plan detailed in this document is designed to:

1. increase staff awareness of the range of eLearning tools available and their application in educational contexts;
2. inform staff about what blended learning is and to help them to explore possibilities for its application in their teaching;
3. help staff to acquire the skills needed to adopt appropriate blended learning approaches in their teaching;
4. provide staff with resources to assist them adopting blended learning in their teaching;
5. promote best-practice in the use of blended learning to enhance teaching and learning at PolyU.

Activities for the Strategic Professional Development Plan for Blended Learning

Departmental Learning and Teaching Committees

The 3C Project Team will ask the Dean for his consent to contact members of each Departmental Learning and Teaching Committee (DLTC) to invite them to attend an informal meeting about the project. The purpose of the meeting would be to:

- Provide an overview of the 3C Project will be provided and blended learning as a teaching approach defined and described;
- Ask the DLTC members to give examples of eLearning and blended learning being used in the Faculty that could be used for the proposed Blended Learning Roadshow for the Faculty;
- Solicit advice on what workshops could be offered to Faculty staff to promote the use of blended learning;
- Discuss the establishment of a mentoring program for staff interested in blended learning.

eLearning Roadshow

The 3C Project team will conduct an informal eLearning Roadshow for Faculty staff, held over lunch in a Faculty venue. The proposed timing for this event is the first or second week of October, 2009. The purpose of this Roadshow would be to generate interest in some Faculty-specific workshops on blended learning which could provide staff with the opportunity to try something small for Semester 2, with a view to doing something more substantive in the following semester if they wish. It was suggested that CyberU staff should be involved in this as they have extensive experience with eLearning and could be mentors for staff wishing to adopt blended learning

WebCT templates for blended learning

Templates for setting up courses in WebCT that assist staff to adopt a more inquiry or problem-based approach will be developed by the 3C Team in consultation with Faculty staff. These templates will use various models for blended learning and will provide staff with a framework for easily implementing blended learning efficiently and help them to avoid pitfalls that can be associated with adopting a new and unfamiliar teaching approach. Amongst the blended learning models used will be ones that help students prepare for face-to-face classes, such as laboratory preparation that students must complete before attending a physical laboratory class.

Videos of lectures online

How videos of lectures can be made and put online for students to view will be investigated by the 3C Team.



Faculty-specific workshops on blended learning

The 3C Project Team will work with the eLAs to select workshops currently offered by Educational Development Centre which could be adapted to the needs of Faculty staff. These workshops will then be re-purposed and delivered to Faculty staff, with follow up provided to ensure that staff have the support to put into practice ideas they have taken from these workshops.

Evaluation

Each activity undertaken for this Strategic Professional Development Plan for Blended Learning will be evaluated using a protocol developed by the staff involved in organising the activity. The evaluation could be completed using methods such as:

- questionnaires
- uptake and usage statistics
- focus group feedback

The result of these evaluations will be reported as per the Communications Plan.

Communications Plan

Progress on the implementation of the Strategic Professional Development Plan for Blended Learning will be communicated in the following ways:

- through reports to the Faculty and School / Department Learning and Teaching Committees;
- via the monthly 3C eNewsletter and on the 3C project website;
- at events or activities conducted as part of the 3C Project or as part of the Strategic Professional Development Plan;
- through emails and other means as required.



3C - What's in IT for me?

Action Plan

The table below indicates the activities planned as part of this Strategic Professional Development Plan for the Faculty of Engineering, together with the participants and indicative timelines. Which activities address the goals for the Plan is also indicated in the table.

Activity	Participants	Indicative Dates	Goals Addressed
Meeting with Chair of Faculty LTC and DLTC members	Faculty LTC Chair DLTC members Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team*	July - August 2009	1, 2, and 4
eLearning Roadshow (1 session 1 ½ hrs)	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team Dr Eric Tsui, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Vincent Ng, Faculty eLearning Advocate	Early Semester 2, 2009	1 and 2
WebCT Templates for Blended Learning	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team* Mr David Chiu, eLA from ITS Ms Winnie Chim, eLA from Library Dr Eric Tsui, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Vincent Ng, Faculty eLearning Advocate	Semester 2, 2009	1, 3, 4 and 5
Videoin of Lectures	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team* Mr David Chiu, eLA from ITS	June 2009 – May 2010	3, 4 & 5
Faculty-specific workshops on Blended Learning	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team* Dr Eric Tsui, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Vincent Ng, Faculty eLearning Advocate	June 2009 – May 2010	1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

* The 3C Project Team will involve staff from Educational Development Centre as required for each of these activities.



3C - What's in IT for me?

Additional activities to be held as part of the 3C Project which the Faculty can have involvement with are:

Activity	Organisers	Participants	Indicative Dates
eLearning Showcase	3C Project Team	Open to all PolyU staff	16 th October 2009
Teaching Innovation Award	3C Project Team	Open to all PolyU staff	12 th – 16 th October 2009 4 th June 2010
Faculty events with invited eLearning consultants	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team Dr Eric Tsui, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Vincent Ng, Faculty eLearning Advocate	Invited staff from Faculty of Engineering	12 th – 16 th October 2009 4 th June 2010
Teaching and Learning Symposium	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team Dr Eric Tsui, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Vincent Ng, Faculty eLearning Advocate	Open to all PolyU staff	4 th June 2010
Technology to address teaching challenges – Workshops	Mr Peter Duffy & Dr Christine Armatas, 3C Project Team Dr Eric Tsui, Faculty eLearning Advocate Dr Vincent Ng, Faculty eLearning Advocate	Open to all PolyU staff	Early Semester 2, 2009