Nelson Mandela University Siyaphumelela Programme Highlights

Siyaphumelela Partners meeting 4 October 2022

Beyond the classroom leadership programme

- Beyond the Classroom (BtC) is a co-curricular activity designed to assist in the development of creative independent civic minded students who will contribute towards a positive living and learning community.

- Completely online with modules created on Moodle in 2021, complemented with Teams sessions.

- Each online module also had an evaluation, and this information was used to improve the online modules for 2022.

- Each student was required to complete a pre- and post-test for the programme, that data will be available shortly from 2021. (198 students completed the programme).

For 2022

- Increased the number of teams sessions we have for students (their request)

- Working with BtC as a pilot programme with the LT Collab to see how co-curricular programmes can be mapped in Moodle using the Coursetune mapping tool. Hoping to create a Competency framework which will include learning outcomes in Moodle, which could possibly be incorporated into the Co-Curricular Record

Open Educational Resources Programme

- Becoming an Open Education Influencer (BOEI) was developed– it is a 6 module training programme.

- BOEI is available openly, on @MandelaUni's public access LMS: https://engage.mandela.ac.za/course/view.php?id=9 – was well received by the OE community.

- Open Education Influencers are ambassadors who increase awareness of Open Educational Resources and Open Education Practices.

- Advocate for the use of Open Textbooks across purpose, faculties and schools.

- The OEI initiative is collaborating with UCT's DOT4D team at the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching on the creation of a national network of Open practitioners

First Year Success Programme

- Primary goal of the project is to on-board and integrate first-year students into the university environment.

- Huge increase in first-time entering students this year.

- In 2022 the FYS programme continued with Online Orientation with some Mask2Mask activities on campus.

- First- time entering students that participated increased from 2051 in 2021 to 4918 in 2022.

- Multiple platforms were used to provide onboarding service to our first years (Facebook, WhatsApp, MS-Teams and Bulk SMS) with the introduction of our Telegram Channel.

- Telegram channel was the primary platform for our Pre-Uni connect programme with a total number of 3112 subscribers to our Telegram Channel.

Additional projects added

PERSONAL MENTORSHIP PROJECT: QUINTILE 1 TO 3 LEARNERS WHO ARE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS IN HUMANITIES

- Programme seeks to bridge the gap between Secondary Education and Higher Education (HE) for students from Quintile 1 to 3 schools.

- Provides personal mentorship by trained senior students and links students to the required support interventions available at the institution.

- Pilot project was first rolled out in the Humanities Faculty using 20 mentees and 20 mentors on the last teaching cycle of 2021.

- In 2022 expended to 25 mentors and 88 mentees and is running for the year.

- Mentors refer students to relevant student support initiatives.

- Impact of the programme is that it broadens the understanding of the student support interventions that are available at the institution.

Additional projects added

Student Journal

To establish and maintain a student academic journal to promote excellence in academic writing among the Advanced Diploma in Technical and Vocational Teaching programme students.
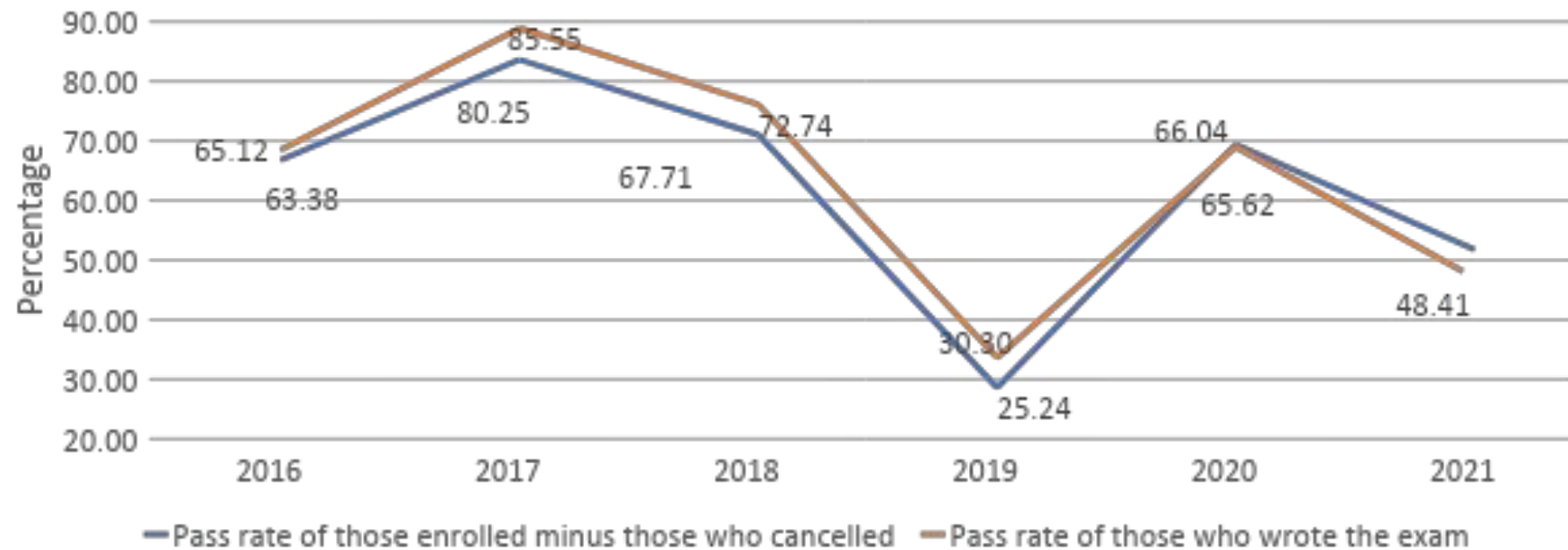
The following activities are being undertaken:

1. Introduction of the Student Journal – as part of their assessment in their programme the students will have to write a full article which will be treated as a journal publication.

2. Selection of good and struggling writers – as soon as the first writing activity was submitted, students were sorted according to their writing abilities. Direct support were given to struggling students, while good writers were encouraged to do more.

3. By the end of 2022, a report that details the performance of the student, as well as how this performance has improved (or not), over a period of one semester will be produced.

4. An electronic journal will be produced, containing the 10 best articles for the semester to encourage other students to improve if they want to have their journals published.

Additional projects added

ACHIEVE

Consolidated pass rate based on those enrolled for the Intermediate Macroeconomics modules from 2016 to 2021

Additional projects added

ACHIEVE

The Achieve learning management system's planning and review material that incorporates regular practice exercises for self-assessment as well as quizzes and homework that counts towards one's final mark may assist in coaching students into the habit of active learning.

 Achieve's mathematical review module may also assist students in enhancing their mathematical skillset and thus improve the module's pass rate.

The main aim would be to review the impact that access to an e-book and adaptive learning tools would have on the success rates of Intermediate Macroeconomics' students at Nelson Mandela University.

Open Textbook Development

Primary aims are to:

- Develop Open Textbooks to be used in the broader LT curriculum at Nelson Mandela University

- Develop Open-Education Influencers research skills – PG students collecting information to help the textbook writers putting the textbooks together

Open Textbooks to be developed

Project Outputs

5 x Completed Open Textbooks with Open licenses.

2 x translated iterations as Moodle courses on Engage.Mandela.

2 x conference presentations

1 x workshop for partners in the Siyaphumelela national network/ regional network

Two Open Textbooks are currently in production:

1. Dr P Kitching's "Constructive Conversations: An Introduction to Self-Coaching for Students,"

2. Ms N Rayepen's "Open Education and 5 Performing Arts"

In semester 2, three others will be developed which will be used as Textbooks and will be focused on actual academic areas.

Other highlights

Success Coaching programme (academic advising) has been established in all Faculties and is now really taking off.

Focused on:

- Motivation, Goal-setting, Time Management, How to learn

Success story of Siyaphumelela – piloting in two Faculties was funded by Siyaphumelela but now rolled out all Faculties and is now funded by Council Funding.

Held Pedagogy of Care Symposium on 15 and 16 September: Faculty of Education and The Teaching Development Unit of the LT Colab.

"Embodying the pedagogy of care in the transition to and during the first year in higher education for students' success"