



# What are we doing differently? Discovering what is possible out of the disruption of COVID-19



Facilitated by Siyaphumelela FYE Workstream

Lauren Oosthuizen (UFS), Danny Fontaine-Rainen (UCT), Subethra Pather (UWC), Mzwandile Khumalo (DUT), Neo Taimo (WITS), Sharmla Rama (UKZN)



# Overview

## 01 Highlights from UWC Mentorship Programme redesigned as a result of the pandemic

- Design
- Lessons learned
- Impact

## 02 Discussion:

- What surprised you about your FY students?
- What changes will you make moving forward?

# University of Western Cape

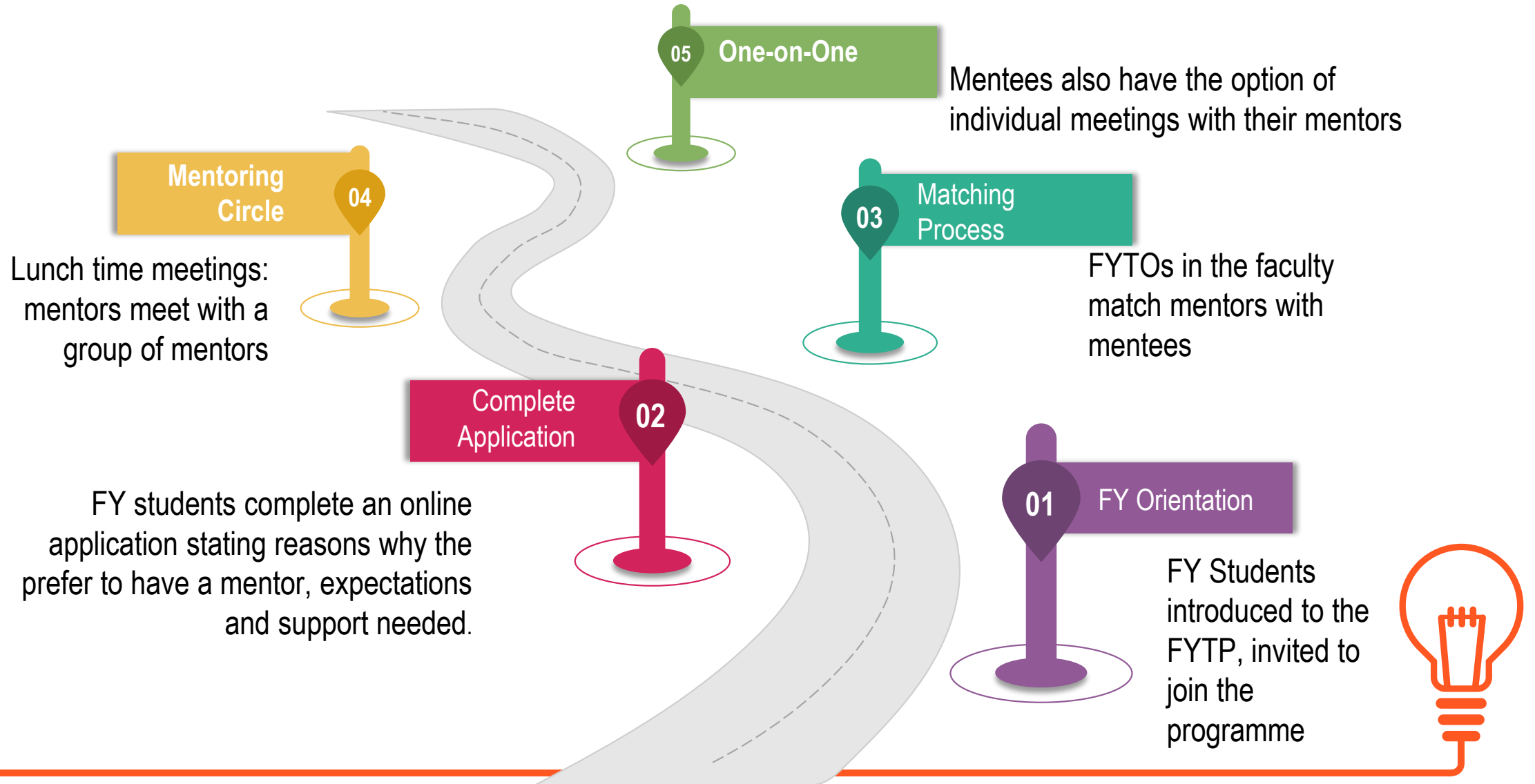


The FYTP provides first year undergraduate students with the necessary guidance, support and motivation so as to ensure that all students achieve a successful transition into university.

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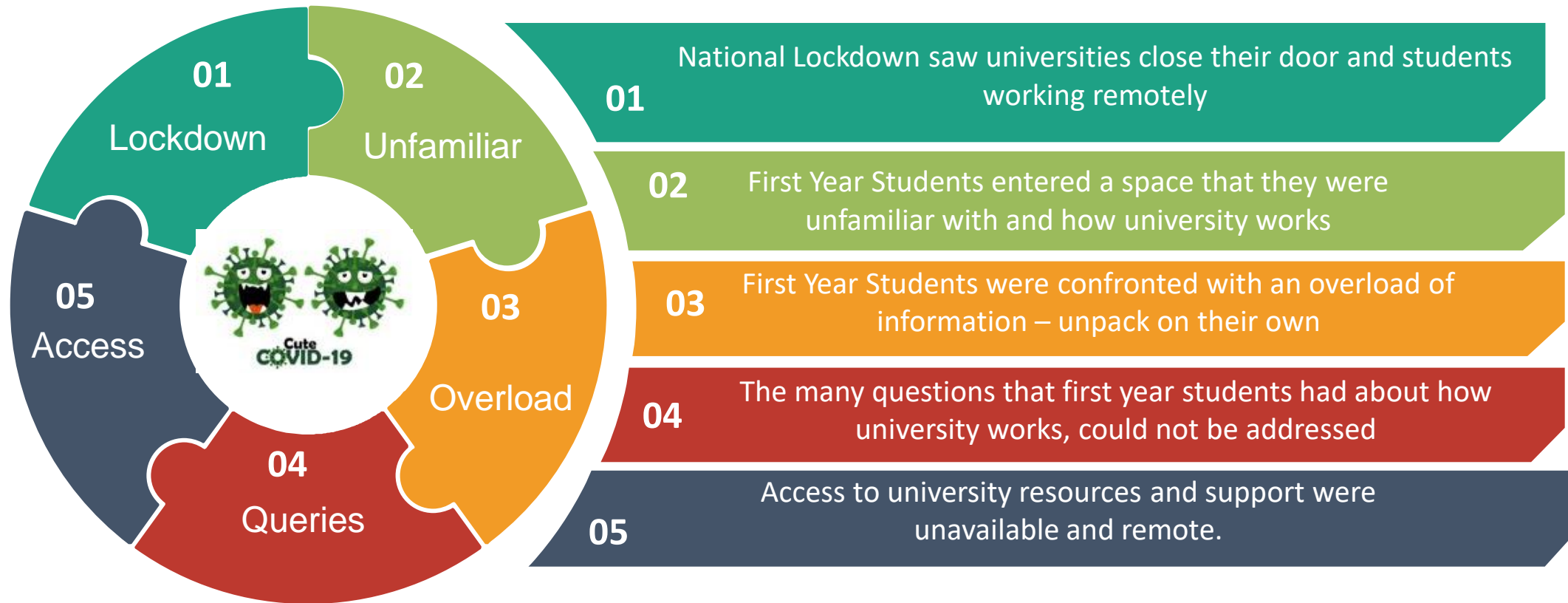


# UWC First Year Transition Programme (FYTP)

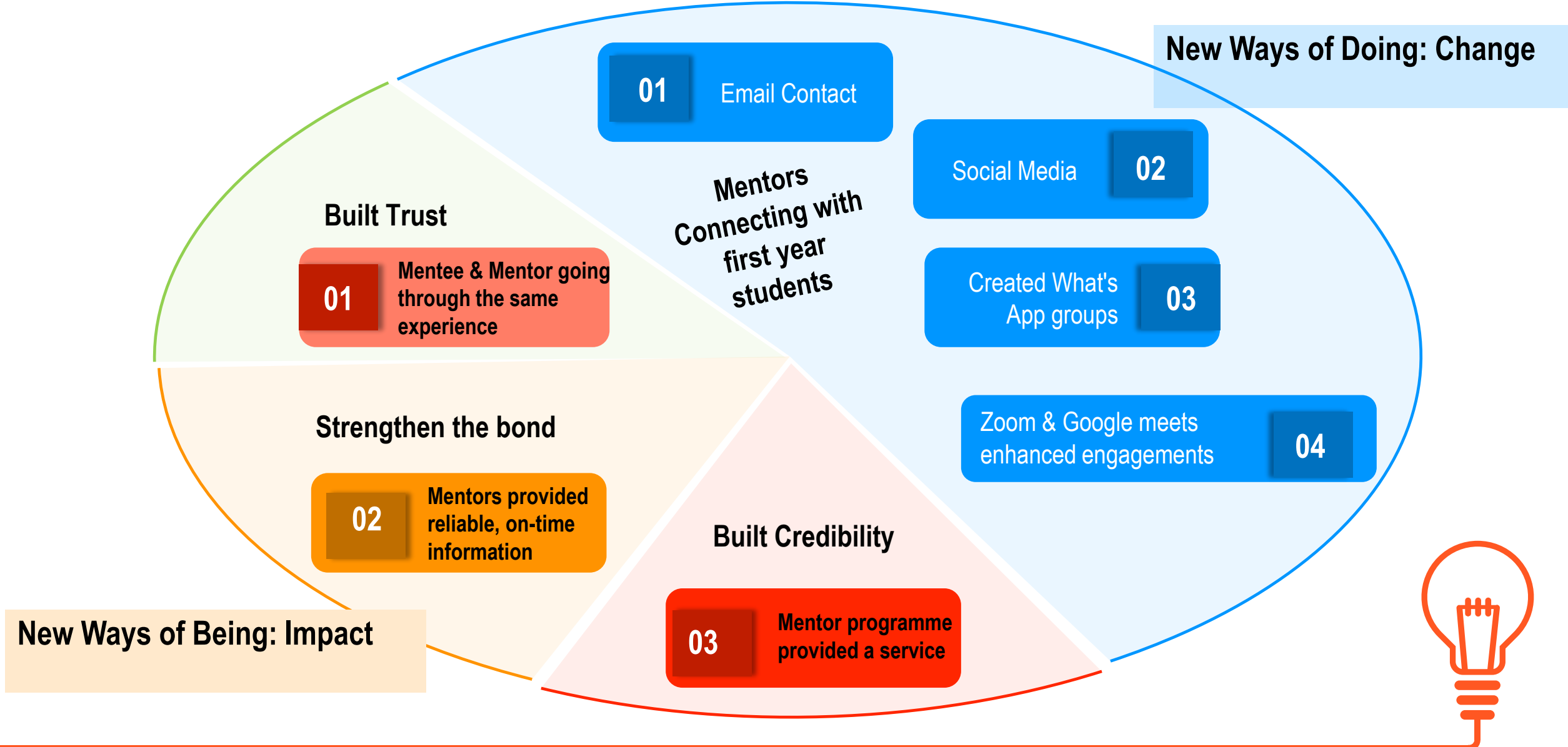


# What Happened & What Challenges the First Year Students Experienced During Covid-19

The first year mentors had to take into account the following challenges experienced by first year students while also dealing with their own changes at university and the world.



# Mentors Found New Ways of Engaging with Mentees



# Lessons learned and impact

We certainly cannot go back to our “old” ways of doing.



We need to learn from our Covid-19 experience, re-imagine, re-invent and renew our FYTP



## Hybrid Model

Flexibility of Mentorship programme to reach a wider audience & accommodate varying students' needs in reaching out and supporting them.



## Communication

Making communication routine and repetitive is key to connect. Regular mentor check-ins reassure mentees that someone on campus knows them personally



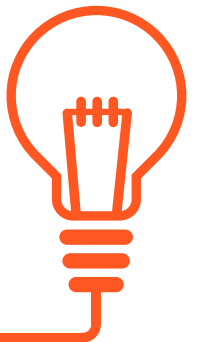
## Humanising student Experience

Humanising student experience by being intentional about inclusion, development and support. Providing holistic approach to engagement



# ACTIVITY 1

What were some of the “unexpected” behaviours of your first year students during the online learning and teaching engagement with them during the pandemic?





# ACTIVITY 2

From your Covid-19 online teaching experience & student engagement, what changes will you adopt in order to support first year student retention and success?





# THANK YOU!



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