

Students enabling students in a Student Partnership Project: A case study emerging from the OLT Transforming Practice Project on Student Partnership

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Abstract

This emerging initiative stemmed from an Office of Learning and Teaching Project (OLT) project, Transforming Practice Programme 2016: Student Engagement: Students as Partners in Teaching and Learning. The initiative, trialed in semester 2, 2016, involved the selection and training of two experienced students to be leaders of a Closed Facebook 'students-only' community which provided advice and triaged queries to appropriate channels. The evaluative processes comprised a participatory action research methodology. Two student leaders who facilitated the Closed Facebook and four academic staff of the project were the participants. The findings demonstrate that the Facebook site provided a safe space, outside the formal learning/classroom environment, where student participants were able to ask and share knowledge. The student-for-student learning community complemented the formal structure by facilitating the opportunity for students to become 'experts' as university students as they move-through their studies.

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