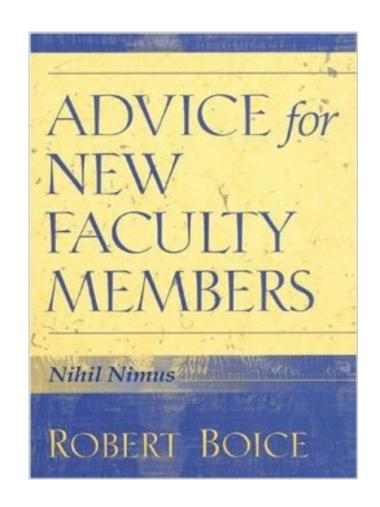
Preparing future faculty through responsive professional development programs

Kiruthika Ragupathi, Lakshminarayanan Samavedham, Liew Shin Dee and Johan Geertsema

Centre for Development of Teaching and Learning (CDTL)
National University of Singapore

New Faculty → Quick Starters

- Multiple roles
 - teaching, research and service
- Super human effort
- •5% → Quick Starters



Programmes for future faculty

Postgraduate
Students Series
(PGS)

Teaching Assistants
Programme
(TAP)

Postgraduate Students Series (PGS)

4 Key Pillars

Relational

- Supervisor-Supervisee Dynamics
- Networking
- Interpersonal Dynamics

Intellectual

- Preparing for Qualifying Exams & Final Thesis Defense
- Authoring/Publishing/Computational Tools
- Research Skills

S Self Management

- Time Management
- Ethics and Plagiarism
- Dealing with Setbacks & Successes in Graduate School

E Employability

- Writing and Communication Skills
- CV writing and Interview Skills
- First Year at Work









Underlying motivations

- beyond the formal curriculum, PG students need guidance relating to their studies along the RISE dimensions
- provide the resources to develop both informal and formal supportive networks and platforms (for successful mentoring)
- modeling/mentorship provided through explicit discussions about PG journey can go a long way towards developing a positive learning and induction culture

T & L Centre's role

- a university level platform
- pedagogical expertise and specially-trained personnel
- provide a broad overview of academic practices
- provide informal support or network structure for students across the university
- instills a sense of community among students from across different disciplines
- •allows students to network with peers from other parts of campus

Teaching Assistants Programme (TAP)

Core Programme

- Class Management Skills
- Handling Tutorials and Labs
- Leading Discussions and Seminars
- Presentation Skills
- Best Practices in Grading and Providing Feedback on Students' Work
- The TA's Role in an Online Learning Environment
- Conversation with Associate Provost
- Microteaching component

elfa2015 question/comment









Blended TAP

Before class



Before class



In class



Follow-up



Microlectures
Short video lectures or narrated presentations



In Video Quizzes
Identification of interests/misconception



Active Learning

Participants work in groups + Hands-on training +

Peer learning + Learner response system



Follow-up Review Session

Active problem solving through in-depth hands-on training/discussion + Peer learning + specialised individual consultations

Moving forward

Transform both programmes into student-led, collaborative initiatives in which faculty and students work as partners to create innovative, interactive, online content and engage in SoTL to enhance the programmes as authentic learning experiences

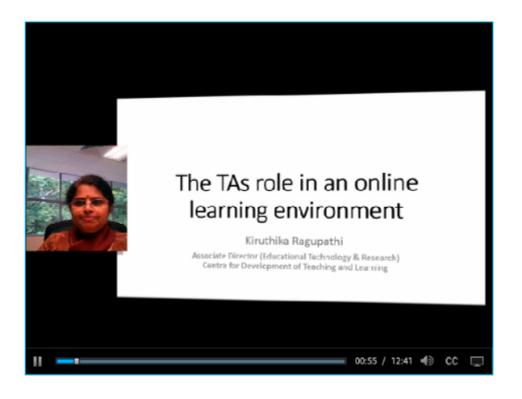
Thank you

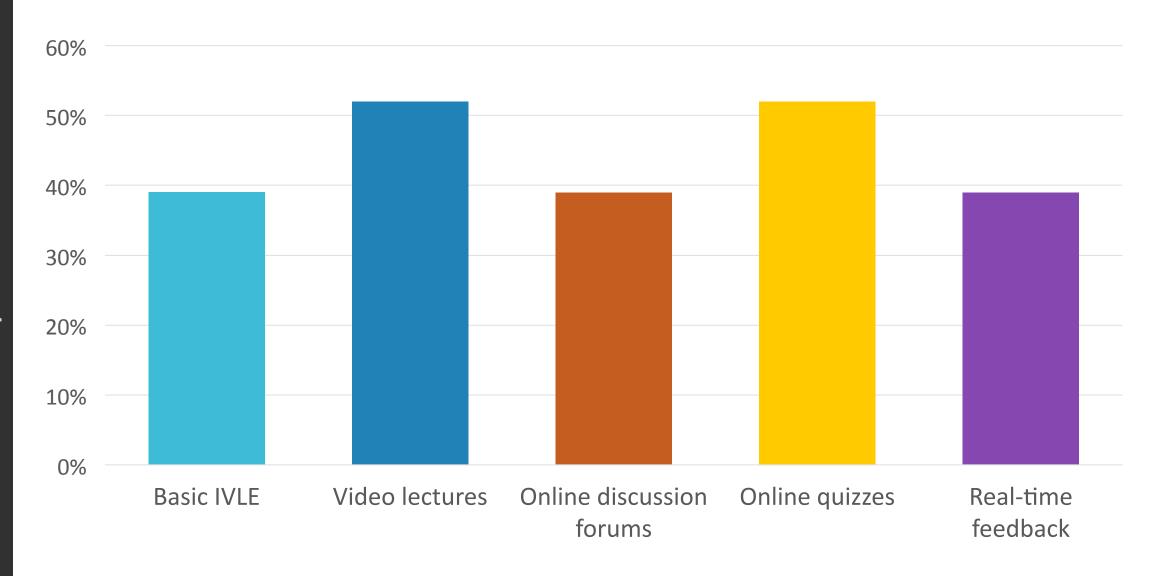
Kiruthika Ragupathi kiruthika@nus.edu.sg



https://www.facebook.com/cdtl.nus
http://blog.nus.edu.sg/cdtkdr/







Strengths

- Efficient to adopt a blended use of both face-to-face teaching and online teaching platform
- To give students space and flexibility for learning
- Usage of more online resources
- To engage students
- To enhance the communication between students and TAs. Both TAs and students should learn the system, if not, it would increase the barrier between us.
- Prepares the students beforehand about the topic so that he can just concentrate on detailed information during face to face session in class

Challenges

- Boring for the TA to prepare video lecture, for example, the e-learning week, TA should record the video and talk solely without students below to respond.
- How do I ensure that good quality learning is achieved over the online platform since there is little visual feedback / 2 way interaction with students?
- How to maintain synergy in a virtual classroom with a huge class size?
- What should not be taught online?
- How often is online learning is used in classes? And what is the general feedback from students of this kind of study?

Challenges

- The feasibility and time taken to construct online learning assessments, and that whether these assessments are effective enough to provide a better learning experience to students.
- Proficiently using these e-platforms such as IVLE, emails, etc. is challenging.
- Online learning facilities are too diversified, and is inconvenient when switching between the varied channels.
- How far can this specific tool can be applied to various "non-scientific" studies
 where a direct mentoring and a physical presence may have benefits which
 cannot be covered by an online face-to-face tool?