

# Consensus-building in Distance Education: Making Learning More Flexible

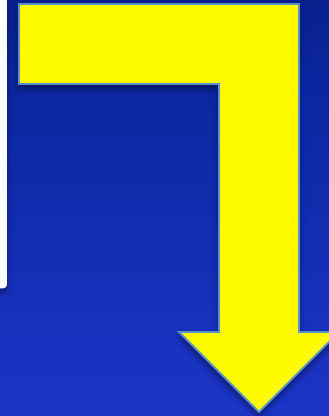
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# INTRODUCTION

**matching of the  
teacher's teaching  
strategy and learner's  
learning styles**



**learners' motivation  
level is increased**



# INTRODUCTION

**MIS**-matching of the  
teacher's teaching  
strategy and learner's  
learning styles

**CONFLICT**

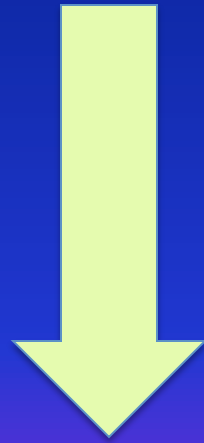


learners' **de**-  
motivation level is  
increased



# INTRODUCTION

## CONSENSUS-BUILDING APPROACH



negotiations

Mismatch



# INTRODUCTION

## CONSENSUS-BUILDING

conflict-resolution process  
used mainly to settle  
complex, multiparty disputes

allows a diverse people  
to contribute into the  
decision-making  
processes

helps establish a common  
understanding and  
framework for developing  
a solution that works for  
everyone



# OBJECTIVES

- To explore the process of consensus-building in an online course
- To identify consensus-building points



# METHODOLOGY

## ONLINE RESEARCH METHODS COURSE

FACULTY-IN-CHARGE SERVED AS THE  
RESEARCHER

CONTENT ANALYSIS: DISCUSSION  
FORUMS, EMAILS, INSTANT MESSAGES  
OF THE COURSE SITE



# RESULTS

FIC presents the course design  
in a course guide

(e.g. content, learning materials,  
activities, assessments, schedule of  
activities)





# RESULTS

## Course Requirements

- Sit-down proctored examinations – to assess the conceptual understanding of the students
- Assignment (Proposal) – to assess the skills of the students in applying their learned concepts to concrete case
- Face-to-Face proposal presentation – to assess the presentation skills of the students



# RESULTS

Negotiations  
started with  
some students



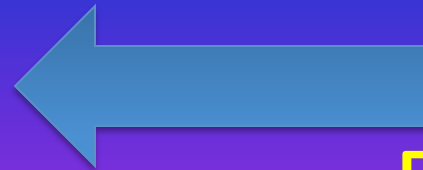
email

FIC



course  
site

Class  
Discussion



CONSENSUS



# RESULTS

## Points for Consensus

- Mode of the learning materials
- Mode of assignment



• Mode of proposal presentation

# Results




## Mode of the learning materials



Mail ▾

COMPOSE

Inbox (1)  
Important  
Sent Mail  
Drafts (133)  
Spam (1)

[Try now](#)

Unable to reach University of the Philippines Open University Mail. Please check your internet connection or company's network settings. [Help](#)

Dear Dr Ric:

Good evening.

Attached is my EDSC Activity #1. I actually have the contents of this activity in my mind even before the first day of class.

My apology for not sending promptly this activity as my internet line at home was down for about a week. I was not able to catch the requirements of activity #1 but from the activity #2 you posted I could deduce what it was - it's basically the research problem and anything related to it.

I have been reading the book even before the first day of class:  
"How to Design and Evaluate Research in Education" by Jack R. Fraenkel and Normal E. Wallen, 6th Edition, 2007, McGraw-Hill, New York. Unless you have objections, I will continue to use this book. I actually have 15 books in research at home, but unfortunately not any one of them is in the list given by you. I was thinking that it will be a waste if I will not use any of them.

Thanks and good night.

# RESULTS

## Mode of examinations



### Request for a take home exam on EDSC 341 and EDSC350

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 10:48 PM

To: ricardo.bagarinao@upou.edu.ph

October 9, 2014

Dear Dr. Bagarinao,

I communicated with some of my classmates and we actually have something in mind although I am not sure if they will also email the request- that is , it if is possible for us to have our midterm exams in EDSC 341 and EDSC 350 , be a take home exam. Actually sir most of our exams on previous semesters are open notes , humbly requesting sir if possible- take home or open notes exam for the said subjects.

Sincerely yours,

Ricardo Bagarinao <ricardo.bagarinao@upou.edu.ph>

Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 7:29 AM

Dear i,

Can you post this in the course site, if you have not done this yet? We can discuss this better I mean with the other members of the class when posted in the site I think. Thanks a lot.

yours,  
baggy-r

[Quoted text hidden]

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"there is still time to think about your future...don't waste it"

Figure 3. Email request of student to change the mode of the mid-term examination

# RESULTS

## Mode of examinations

Sir I will appreciate it if it will be take home. Because of our Science month activities I have a limited time in doing my literature review. I have a hard time reading the topics last week also, although I am trying my best to at least do this things. i hope you will consider my predicament. Thank you.

Hi Sir,

It would be better if it would be a take home exam. It would be less expensive for our part.

Thanks..



Hello Sir. Do we have a take home exam as we requested? Travelling to Washington DC for an exam is too much for a commute and I cannot take leave as I am using all my days for my trip to the Philippines for my parents' death anniversary. Thanks!

[Quoted text hidden]




# RESULTS

Mode of  
proposal  
presentation

Face to Face  
vs. Online vs.  
Video  
Recorded



# CONCLUSION



As indicated in students' responses in the various points of negotiations, the location and other responsibilities of the students played a key role in the decision-making process of the students.

The students used their financial burden to justify their negotiations for the change of mode.

The class should be allowed to discuss the issues, and come up with the general decision to avoid marginalizing other students



A photograph of a large, modern, multi-story building with a white facade and blue accents, identified as the UP Open University. The building has a central entrance with a curved roofline and is surrounded by a paved area and greenery. A blue sky with white clouds is visible in the background.

*Thank you!*

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