OFID

NEWSLETTER
2nd issue - June 2014

Collaboration, Creativity, Commitment

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Enhancing Instruction…. And Always Moving Forward

Welcome to the 2nd newsletter of the Office of Faculty and Instructional Development at Qatar University.

With the fast-paced world we live in, one wonders if face-to-face education is an up-to-date fact. Many have argued that the current educational system is outdated and should be replaced. Is it time to do so? Maybe not, but it is certainly time to rethink how we teach and where we are going. While arguments about whether social interaction and the human relationships that foster learning are still up-to-date, it is certainly necessary to understand more how our students learn better. When we think of the importance of OFID, these keywords first come to mind: Collaboration, Creativity and Commitment.

Collaboration is a key to success for OFID. It helps us create bonds inside our community, transfer skills and knowledge to each other, exchange ideas and tips that support students in their learning and growth. Collaboration brings together different expertise and perspectives from one college to another, one university to another. Believing in teamwork, the collaboration with faculty members from all colleges and programs through the OFID DAYS, the EduTech Days, and the Assessment Days, has established a culture of sharing. Sharing knowledge and sharing best experiences in teaching, learning and assessment. While Technology has helped the world break through barriers, it has also helped in developing students' human and social sides, which are essential ingredients for motivation and success. From workshops to seminars and round-table discussions, OFID shared an incredible number of sessions about instruction and assessment that we hope will lead to collaboratively building a learning community.

 Another OFID keyword is *Creativity* in topics and programs proposed, in responding to immediate instructional needs from all colleges. OFID hopes to take Creativity to another level. As the university moves towards more research, OFID integrated in its SP 2013-16 the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). We hope that this expanding field in research will enable colleagues to come together from different fields and elaborate more on their teaching and best ways of learning. Gaining more skills in technology, active learning and assessment strategies can be coupled with the advancement of one's research portfolio. This will transform the university into an instructional research hub for the best learning methods based on one's own evidence and benchmarked with other researches in the field of SoTL. In this newsletter, we're providing you with links to websites that can help you locate venues for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Last but not least, to really succeed, the 3rd keyword is crucial: *Commitment*. This is one of OFID's leitmotiv for quality assurance when we learn and teach. Commitment enables us to assess our teaching for an enhanced quality of student learning, and OFID is committed to supporting faculty members by all means. In view of the increased numbers of participation in OFID sessions this year, reaching more than 90 % of faculty members, we are confident that the concept of life-long learning has been well received at QU.

To conclude, it has certainly been a pleasure for me to support and to learn from the many interactions I have had with every one of the colleagues OFID has collaborated with, and each one of those who benefitted from OFID's trainings. While I will be handing over the reins of OFID for the next academic year, I wish you and Qatar University all the best.

Dr. Dalal Moukarzel
Director, Office of Faculty & Instructional Development

Office of Faculty and Instructional Development

Founded in 2005

By Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Shaikha Bint Jabor Al Thani

Directors

Dr. Dalal Moukarzel (2009-2014)

Dr. Taj Elsir Kardaman (Acting -2005-2009)

Prof. Ali AbdulMoneim, (Founding - 2004-2005)

Mission

The Office of Faculty and Instructional Development (OFID) supports QU academic staff with ongoing professional development programs and resources that meet faculty needs in curriculum enhancement and innovations for high quality education. OFID aims to facilitate and support faculty endeavors in the implementation of research and technology-based teaching methodologies for student learning and engagement in a collaborative working environment.

Strategic Directions

The Office of Faculty & Instructional Development believes, since its inception, that a shared culture of teaching for better learning and assessment for improvement brings faculty members to enhance the quality of students results and development. From the strategic plan 2010-2013 to the new strategic plan 2013-2016, OFID will continuously provide the best services to enhance the quality of teaching and learning based on the latest trends in technology and research in education.

OFID will continue to
• Enhance and promote excellence in teaching and learning.
• Disseminate examples of the best teaching and learning practices university-wide.
• Assess and respond to immediate and long range professional development needs related to new academic programs.
• Maintain a quality workforce and work environment. Provide offerings and services to help faculty, teaching assistants, and supportive staff integrate e-learning strategies and related technology into teaching.

OFID Services

• Workshops, General Lectures and Seminars on College Teaching
• Individual and Small Group Consultations
• Departmental Visits
• Printed and Online Materials Circulation

Visit: http://www.qu.edu.qa/offices/ofid/services.php
Or scan the QR code with your mobile phone

Ya Hala Academic Orientation: Welcoming New Faculty at Qatar University

"Having you coming from different parts of the world with different experience, different exposure is the value added which we would like to see at the university and we would like you to contribute with all that you can to the university's growth" Prof. Al Misnad, President.

The Yahala Academic Orientation takes place every year at Qatar University. The main point of this event is to welcome our new colleagues, showing them what QU culture is about, why they need to know a lot on their first days, and how they can manage to find their way academically. The Office of Faculty and Instructional Development (OFID) plays the role of catalyst in this event, calling on mentors months before the new academic year to discuss best ways to support new faculty as developed in OFID Mentoring Guidelines. By planning every detail, bringing together QU key figures to talk to new faculty, and offering workshops with QU facilitators, OFID provides new faculty with the first initial encounter and involvement with colleagues from all QU colleges.

The Yahala Academic Orientation 2013 was reduced to one day instead of 2 this year to allow faculty members to finalize their college preparations prior to receiving their students. The intensive program began with a coffee break very early at 7:30 am (earlier than what we expected!) to welcome new faculty members. At 8:30 am, the President of Qatar University, Prof. Sheikha Al Misnad welcomed the 166 new comers to Qatar and Qatar University, saying that "Qatar University is a very dynamic university, developing fast because we live in a very dynamic country, full of ambition and plans." The President elaborated on the academic and research parts of a faculty member's life, ascertaining that they are in a country that invests considerably in education and research, making these a priority for the country, inviting new faculty to benefit from the endless opportunities offered at these levels in order to develop their own areas of expertise and research. Dr. Al Misnad encouraged new colleagues to really be engaged and "look at the university as [their] own place, own company, own family" and ascertaining that "coming from different parts of the world with different experiences and different exposures, is the value added which we would like to see at the university and we would like you to contribute with all that you can to the university's growth."

Dr. Al Misnad was followed by Dr. Hasna, VPCAO, who delivered an extensive speech about the academic life at QU, faculty relationship with students, and university expectations about research. The VPCAO said that "QU faculty members represent more than 40 countries. .. so we really believe that [QU] has a really good diverse mix of different schools of thoughts and education that work together to come up with the best type of education that we want to give our students".

http://echo360.qu.edu.qa:8080/ess/echo/presentation/a67d2df6-5cea-4c6d-a76e-0af9be913682

New faculty were then invited to take a bus from the CENG to the New Library, where they had a coffee break and then shared best practices with QU colleagues in intensive sessions in both Arabic and English on opportunities for faculty development, inter-cultural communication and mentoring. After lunch, they were also introduced to Blackboard 9.1 as the main Learning Management System at QU, and ways of developing their course portfolio.

The event seemed to have been well perceived by the new colleagues who scored OFID as one of the best experiences during settling at QU with the highest percentage of satisfaction of 95.0% according to the OIPD New Faculty Satisfaction Survey Report (AY 2013-14).

Collaboration for Faculty Development Leads to Unprecedented Voluntary Participation

Teaming with Colleges

OFID has been supporting faculty in their instructional development to promote a high standard of teaching and learning at QU. In the process of advancing student skills to meet the job market needs, faculty have had the opportunity to attend numerous workshops, seminars, and roundtable discussions or watch them in the comfort of their home through lectured captured sessions. The numbers and statistics from those workshops show a high degree of involvement from not just certain colleges but all colleges at QU.

Success of the sessions can be attributed to great collaboration with expert facilitators from QU and outside of QU. OFID teamed up with Deans, professors, and lecturers from different colleges and offices at QU, and they all shared their expertise in teaching, assessment, research and technology.

According to Mr. Alaeddin Halwani, Representative of the Foundation Program to OFID, "ever since its commencement in 2005, the impact of OFID on faculty development has been paramount. The experience of the Foundation Program faculty with OFID has been particularly fruitful and rewarding in various ways. By dint of its academic activities, such as OFID Days and Orientation sessions, faculty have been able to gain knowledge of innovative ideas, comprehend them and apply them in their classes. Active learning, Strategies for Learning and Best Teaching Practices are but a few topics that our faculty in the Foundation Program have attended and, subsequently, gathered good harvest (…). Moreover, consultations such as peer observation, research for publications, and Blackboard support have been particularly helpful, promoting a culture of learning at Qatar University."

In line with the above, the Representative of the College of Arts and Sciences to OFID, Dr. Mazher Al Zohbi, said "the goals and mission of OFID could not be expressed and articulated more than in the range of successful and cooperative efforts and workshops conducted by and to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). Given the size and diversity of disciplinary foci in CAS, from Arabic to Biology and from History to Sports Sciences, OFID functioned as a multi-faceted resource for many of the instructional and professional needs of the college. The successful partnership between OFID and CAS ultimately highlights the strengths, flexibility and supportive collaboration in the promotion of instructional and professional development both in the College of Arts and Sciences and Qatar University at large."

OFID promoted collaboration between professors from different colleges throughout the years. For example, OFID teamed professors from CAS / department of Arabic with College of Shariaa, and organized a training program during Fall 2013 to enhance instructional practices with topics such as argumentation, promoting critical thinking skills through inquiry based learning, paraphrasing, summarizing, and reading. According to Dr. Ayman Saleh, Representative of the College of Sharia at OFID, "These workshops were characterized by strong attendance and engagement from Shariaa faculty and a large number of questions and interventions with the presenter to discuss ways of utilizing the content of the sessions in the instructional process."

The collaboration with the College of Business and Economics (CBE) has also been mutually beneficial. Many colleagues from CBE offered several presentations during OFID events such as YaHala Academic Orientation and OFID Days and attended many sessions as well.   According to Dr. Anouze, CBE Representative to OFID, " the demand for OFID training grew over the past five years, especially for new faculty members, and several training courses were conducted to serve faculty needs". As such, 76 out of 80 CBE faculty members participated in OFID training programs!

The reciprocative relationship that OFID maintains with other colleges can be also seen with the College of Law. According to Dr. Christopher Evers, Representative to OFID "This past academic year, twenty-one faculty and staff members out of 31 participated OFID workshops, such as designing on-line exams and using clickers in class to increase student learning. The College of Law was also proud to have faculty members participate as facilitators during the 5th OFID Days Conference."

Other colleges like Education, Engineering, and Pharmacy have also been involved at different occasions with OFID.

Professors from the College of Education also contributed to faculty development, and while we value each ones' involvement, we have a special thought to late Prof. Eiman Zaki whose dedication to education was remarkable over years.

Collaboration between CENG and OFID also grew over the past few years. Professor Farid Benyahia, Representative of the College of Engineering to OFID, emphasized this fact while he himself facilitated different workshops on graduate courses and thesis writing, in support of the ambitious expansion of postgraduate programs at QU.

According to Dr. Nadir Kheir, Representative of the College of Pharmacy to OFID, "Qatar University's OFID-CPH relationship represents a fine model of faculty development alliance at a tertiary educational level. The alliance enabled not only prompt communication with the CPH's needs for professional development to OFID, but also the active contribution of faculty members from CPH in OFID's activities (including OFID Days)."
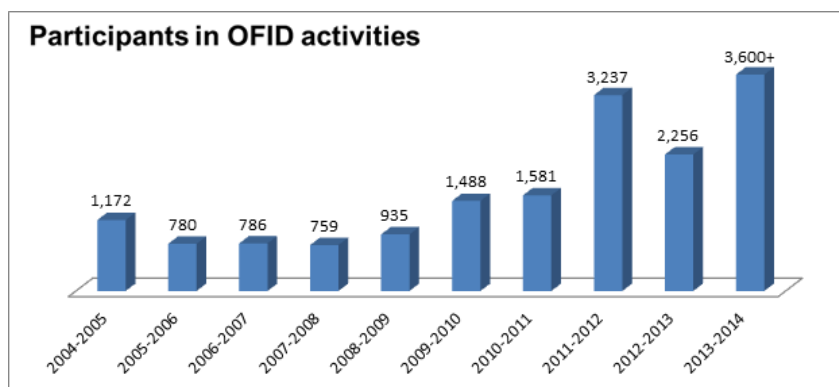
OFID & External Professionals

OFID left no stone unturned as it contacted consultants and experts from different educational institutions from several parts from Qatar and overseas. OFID collaborated extensively with professors from the Education City Universities in Doha, organizing jointly the Great Annual Teacher Retreat since 2011, where faculty members from the academic institutions at Qatar University and Qatar Foundation shared and discussed expertise in a relaxed and productive environment and attempted to develop original methods of teaching. OFID further organized sessions where participants in the retreat shared their experiences with their QU colleagues. Collaboration with other institutions never stopped as well, naming for example the American University of Beirut, Calgary University, Lamar University, and Consultants from California, Pennsylvania and Texas. External reviewers were invited in collaboration with other offices such as APLOA to do workshops and offer one-on-one consultation to help colleges improve their programs and deal with issues.

This confirms the expression of "life-long learning", best expressed with solid data: In the current academic year 2013-2014, OFID involved faculty in **290 sessions** up to the month of May including workshops, seminars, small group consultations, etc.; these were attended by more than **3600 participants** , which represents **672** faculty and academic staff from QU and 33 from other universities in Qatar, **an unprecedented voluntary participation in faculty development activities!**

Participants in OFID activities

Year	Participants
2004-2005	1,172
2005-2006	780
2006-2007	786
2007-2008	759
2008-2009	935
2009-2010	1,488
2010-2011	1,581
2011-2012	3,237
2012-2013	2,256
2013-2014	3,600+

OFID's ongoing commitment to pushing the boundaries, fostering critical thinking skills, and interactive learning approaches, to name but few is an added value in faculty development. Sharing experiences and effective instructional approaches is a spirit that should perdure over time to meet Qatar University's vision of high quality education.

The OFID DAYS … A Tradition for Continuous Enhancement

At the beginning was the idea of sharing the best teaching experiences faculty had with their students. Then, the idea evolved to create a learning community that shares experiences, builds bridges between colleges and faculty members, broadens perspectives and comes up with solutions to challenges in a relaxed environment of academic and field experts. This is the spirit of OFID DAYS.

When it first began in 2010, the small team at OFID followed its passion for teaching and learning and took on the challenge of organizing such a big event that includes all colleges and programs, but it was the support received from the President, the Vice President and Chief Academic Officer and all college Deans, Directors and faculty members that made the 1st OFID DAYS such a success that we were compelled to go on for more and better over the years. Thus, OFID moved on with its journey in promoting a culture of sharing experiences that QU fully supported! Through interactive poster sessions and various workshops on motivation, leadership, inquiry based learning, research and integrating technology in the classroom, the OFID DAYS created an unprecedented collaborative environment at QU. As a result of its success, this event has become a "tradition" ,to recall Dr. Shaikha El Misnad's words, and have continued since 2010 to attract QU faculty and other colleagues from the Education City universities to improve their instructional practices and maximize student learning. On the opening days, a panel of deans, directors, and representatives from colleges and universities in Qatar would come together to share their college and program experiences in different domains such as assessment, research, and program development.   On the second day of the event, faculty could choose from a vast variety of workshops about integration, engagement, and technology to improve their performance and enhance student learning, epitomizing the mission of OFID in bringing together colleges in a collaborative environment to maintain high quality of not only teaching and learning but also assessment. The attendance of faculty members reached a peak in 2012 with 829 participants over 3 days in 29 sessions. With its challenging theme "Active Learning and Assessment: Where Are We?" Dr. Shaikha Al Thani drove faculty motivation for quality assurance to its extreme! Building on faculty engagement, it was only normal that the 4th OFID Days, in 2013, entitled "Student Engagement Strategies: Excellence in Teaching and Learning" brought together colleagues to share strategies that involve students in their learning, improve students' critical thinking and enhance their research skills.

This year, the 5th OFID DAYS **" Pushing the Boundaries: Teaching, Learning and Technology**," attended by **657 participants** in 27 sessions, was marked by participation from all colleges and from colleagues in the Education City as an enhancement to our collaboration at the academic level since 2011. Building on QU Strategic Plan 2013-16 in improving learning through different means, a special intensive course was offered on Blended Learning by Dr. Virginia Kay Shelton and Dr. Georges Saltsman from Lamar University-Texas, and a special presentation on a unique experience of a blended course at the College of Shariaa was shared with colleagues by Dr. Basyouni Nehela, who was congratulated for his great efforts by Dr. Hasna, VPCAO.

Sessions that were offered by QU facilitators and others from Georgetown University and the College of North Atlantic-Qatar targeted also the latest trends in online technology such as online instruction and testing, using web-based applications, flipping the classroom, innovations with the IPad, and many others, in English and Arabic, that will help students achieve their full potential.

Entitled, **" Pushing the Boundaries: Teaching, Learning and Technology**," the 5th OFID DAYS further enhanced QU faculty's involvement in the act of teaching for better learning at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Whether pushing boundaries in teaching practices, enhancing learning with technology or advancing the assessment process at QU, OFID Days' main objective is to bring together colleges' constituencies to share experiences for the sake of Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Developing the Assessment Process for Quality Education:
A shared effort within QU community

Acknowledgment for their contribution: Dr. Shaikha Bint Jabor Al Thani, Dr. Khaled Daoud, Dr. Adel Cherif

The Academic Program and Learning Outcome Assessment Office (APLOA) and the Office of Faculty and Instructional Development (OFID) organized in February 2014 a Two-Day Assessment Event. The first day offered hands-on workshops on how assessment can improve teaching and learning. "Using Assessment Results to Improve Teaching and Learning" was well attended by more than 120 faculty members and many academic administrators. The second day was also a success with 10 one-to-one meetings between the different assessment members from 19 academic programs and the Consultant, Linda Suskie who came especially for the Qatar University event.

Suskie's first day of workshop centered on how to use the best assessment practices and refine the process to improve teaching and learning. She stressed that assessment plans should be   thoughtful, manageable, and sustainable. She illustrated shortcomings and issues in implementing assessment by critiquing assessment tools rubrics and the interpretation of the data, which were extracted from the assessment reports sent to her; it was a hands-on and fast paced workshop that motivated faculty members to engage in lively discussions.

> **"We wouldn't have been able to do anything without the effort and the work of faculty members in different departments."**
> Dr. Adel Cherif
> Director - APLOA

One activity that stood out centered on pedagogical high impact practices that promote deep lasting learning. "Students must be inquisitive learners," said one participant, supported by very engaged colleagues, calling for practices that enhance problem-solving skills and equip students with life-long learning skills. Participants shared their own experiences in teaching learning, and the assessment cycle, and reflected on the assessment tools used, as well as on some student samples to refine rubrics, and formulate recommendations to close the loops. Interestingly, the participants displayed some students' work to support their arguments and to ensure that recommendations for further improvements are executable within the context of QU settings.

The main concepts Suskie worked on with the participants in the different interactive sessions during the day were: effective assessment prompts and assignments related to programs, measurable SLOs, and choosing appropriate scopes for the projects. Suskie further explained that for an instrument to be objective and have content validity, instructors must make a list of SLOs before developing the assessment instrument, suggesting sharing those objectives with students prior to administering the assessment, thus involving students in the assessment process. Many good practices were shared on developing assessment instruments, rubrics, and ways of implementations.

APLOA and OFID have had a significant role in developing and supporting the culture of sharing experiences at QU, especially in teaching, learning and assessment. Both academic entities are central not only to the sustainability of SLOA at Qatar University, but to foster and enhance the inseparable relation between SLOs and pedagogical practices. Remembering the most important events developed jointly to serve this purpose, one can recall the well-attended event, namely "Active Learning and Assessment: Where Are we?" – 3rd OFID Days- held in 2012 as one of many major forums and events that institutionalize the link between assessment and pedagogies.

This event featured numerous sessions about assessment on course and program levels during 3 consecutive days. With the full support of the senior leadership of the university, both offices put all necessary efforts to boost the assessment process by all means like connecting people from different colleges and motivating faculty to develop their professional knowledge and skills related to learning outcomes at the course and program levels. OFID, APLOA and the VPCAO offices view assessment as an important means to not only provide evidence of student attainment of SLOs, but more importantly to continuously improve the university learning environment.

Quality education and quality assurance were a major focus at Qatar university Reform agenda, of which the Student Learning Outcomes Assessment System was born. The process and development of an evidence- based system to assess achievements against the pre- set Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) by the academic programs, started in 2006. Intensive trainings were provided for faculty and programs on writing their mission statement, educational objectives, student learning outcomes, and 2-3 year assessment plans. Each academic department had to ensure the design of a fully integrated curriculum, implementing effective delivery methods of their courses, facilitating the achievement of their students' SLOs as set by the academic program, and most importantly guaranteeing the competencies of QU graduates to meet the job market. The ultimate objective of adopting the assessment process is to measure educational effectiveness, and create a built- in mechanism for continuous improvement from within that is self-driven by the faculties themselves. The Journey of the assessment process from 2006 to 2012 was documented in a paper entitled "Developing, Implementing and Improving Learning Outcomes Assessment in Qatar's Public Higher Education"[1] that was presented early February 2014 by former VPCAO, Dr. Shaikha Bint Jabor Al- Thani, at the American University of Beirut Conference 'Effective Teaching and Learning in Higher Education'.

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[1] *Al-Thani, S. J., Abdelmoneim, A., Daoud, K., Cherif, A., & Moukarzel, D. (2014). Developing, implementing and improving learning outcomes assessment in Qatar's public higher education. Near and Middle Eastern Journal of Research in Education, 2014:3.*

External expert eyes definitely help. This statement was taken at face value by QU leadership in their roadmap to improve QU academic learning environment in general. Since 2006, QU has collaborated with several experts to assure that SLOA's path is moving in the right direction and lend support to its faculty and programs. Starting from 2009 till present, the university has annually worked with an external assessment expert, who was asked to look at program reports, holistically and in details. The external reviewer was also to produce institutional reports indicating success, challenges and recommending improvement action. The same was done for each program examined. The external assessment expert acts as a mentor who is also invited for a campus visit that usually takes place during the Assessment Days, to facilitate tailor-made workshops based on findings, and speak in individual meetings with programmatic SLOA committee members.

 "We [always] need to go back, reflect, tweak, enrich, and redesign our academic programs, to fulfill what we claim our students are capable of doing, and SLOAs are an effective means of doing so" said former VPCAO, Dr. Shaikha Bint Jabor, in 2011 Assessment Event's opening. In 2014, VPCAO Dr. Mazen Hasna lauded the high quality of the assessment process at QU expressing "The [continuous] need for solid data to use them to evaluate student achievement and learning." High quality was also emphasized by Linda Suskie in her introduction, saying that what QU has achieved in assessing student learning is far more advanced than a lot of universities in the United States!

During the AY 2011-12, the university considered the Assessment Week as a crucial event for advancing the assessment process. External reviewer, Dr. Mary Allen, came from California - USA to examine and discuss 40 assessment reports from various departments at QU prior to her visit to the campus. While QU has been working hard to improve the process, especially since 2006, the first round of learning outcomes reviews was done during the academic year 2010-11 with Dr. Amal Bu Zeineddine and Dr. Saouma BouJaoude from the American University of Beirut providing different workshops about assessment at the course level and reviewing different programs outcomes with colleges and departments. She worked on the different aspects of assessment activities, such as the validity of the assessment tools and the reliability of the data collected, and she offered a thoughtful interpretation and analysis of the results that were shared with the concerned programs in one to one meetings.

In his introduction of the Assessment week, Dr. Adel Cherif said: "Assessment is about quality, so we have to use the assessment results to improve our programs in order to ensure that we are delivering good programs and educating the students." In September of the AY 2012-13, Dr. Mary Allen came back with the review of 19 assessment reports asking faculty to analyze samples from these reports, and reflect back on them. During her second visit, Dr. Allen emphasized the fact that everyone was moving along with the assessment efforts and the outcomes looked better than the year before, saying that we need to "keep it simple and do it well (…) instead of having it complicated and consequently not doing it well (…)."   This was her advice "to get the value added at the end of the work."

For sustainably to exist, faculty ownership and training are instrumental. The university as mentioned above instituted the Assessment Days, where faculty come together to share best practices, get engaged in focused training session tailored to their needs, discuss challenges, and explore opportunities.
 The Assessment Days in 2014 with Linda Suskie have ascertained that QU is moving forward with the process. Dr. Adel Cherif talked about the offices responsible for establishing the assessment process and emphasized the valuable contribution of faculty in creating this process. "We wouldn't have been able to do anything without the effort and the work of faculty members in different departments."

To see a video on QU Assessment Events on YouTube click on:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYb6_t4OgDo

OFID Education Technology News

Online Training at OFID

After the successful pilot of launching 2 online training programs for faculty members during AY 2012-2013, OFID increased the number of online training programs to be five this year. OFID team, in collaboration with colleagues from QU colleges, developed all five programs at OFID premises using echo 360 and Blackboard as a LMS.

Each online training program consists of a number of modules (three to five). Each module has a video lecture by the facilitator, resources, and some activities to do. Participants have to go through the modules sequentially in order to complete the program successfully.

The online training programs were well-received by QU faculty members. During AY 2013-2014, OFID Online training programs featured 419 registrations and 196 completions. OFID received feedback on these online training programs through an anonymous feedback form that participants had the chance to fill out after completing all activities of each program. Feedback in general was very positive and faculty members asked for more online training. Samples of feedback received through the online feedback form:

"More online courses are needed as they are very practical and they save considerable time for the instructors"

"Very lucid, informative and extremely useful"

QATAR UNIVERSITY
OFID Online Faculty Development

تنمية المهارات اللغوية
With Dr. Ahmad Safar

Learning Outcomes
With Dr. Abdou Ndoye

Helping At-Risk Students Succeed
With Dr. Nancy Alyn

Interactive Lectures & Socratic Teaching
with Dr. Michael Romanowski

For further information related to OFID online training sessions, you may visit:
http://www.qu.edu.qa/offices/ofid/Online_training.php
or scan the QR code using your mobile phone

OFID organizes a Crash Course in Blended and Online Course Preparation

During the 5th OFID Days event in January 2014, OFID conducted a 2-days crash course entitled "Making the Transition: Practical Solutions for the Blended and Online Classroom". The crash course was facilitated by Dr. Kaye Shelton, an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership in the Center for Doctoral Studies in the College of Education at Lamar University and Mr. George Saltsman, Vice President for Higher Education at Connected Consulting.

Forty-one faculty members from Qatar University participated in the course. Using a hands-on approach, mixed with demonstrations, examples, and mini-lectures, participants explored alternate instructional methodologies and technologies for creating student-centered learning environments while redesigning one currently taught course to become more of a blended one. During day one, facilitators focused on discussing the need to adopt 21st century learning methodologies that advance the QU mission of providing high quality education. On day two, participants were given the chance to explore different methods and tools that facilitates student-centered learning in a blended environment.

Qatar University has MAGNA 20 Minute Mentor Commons Subscription through OFID

The Office of Faculty and Instructional Development has subscribed to MAGNA 20 minute mentor commons. With this subscription, QU faculty members can access a growing library of video-based programs that give strategies to solve everyday challenges in teaching and learning, classroom management, assessment and technology.

The library has more than 100 videos presented under different education themes. Each one is around 20 minutes long and focuses on one specific strategy such as: "How Can I Capture Students' Interest in the First 5 Minutes?", "How Can I Make My Multiple Choice Tests More Effective?", "How Do I Create Engaging Threaded Discussion Questions?".

Videos come with several resources related to the topic, handouts and discussion guides. For instructions on how to access MAGNA 20 minute commons, you can contact OFID or refer to the instructions on OFID website: http://www.qu.edu.qa/offices/ofid/Online_training.php#Magna

OFID is Promoting the Use of Web based Students Response Systems "Clickers" at QU Classes.

In order to provide awareness of available technological tools and resources that can enhance students' learning, OFID has been offering several workshops during the past two years to faculty members in topics related to interactive tools such as Socrative Clickers, Wikis, Online tests and video recording software.

With the increase of tools available for different platforms, OFID education technology team do their best promoting tools that are tested and proved to have a positive effect on the classroom environment. For example, OFID started to give workshops on the use of web based clickers such as Socrative.com in Spring 2013. Several faculty members reported that they were able to implement this tool successfully in class. Another workshop was conducted during Fall 2013 and individual follow up sessions were conducted during Spring 2014.

According to Jumana Samara, Training & Educational Technology Manager at OFID, "Socrative.com is a web based students' response system that helps teachers in engaging students and getting their instant feedback in class. Unlike physical clickers, there is no need to buy devices, carry them around, distribute and collect them in each class. Students can use their smart phones and tablets to respond to the teacher's questions. There are several web services that provide the same service. We chose Socrative because it is simple and compatible with a wide range of devices. Its teacher and student apps are available on Google Play, iTunes, and Windows Store."

In line with the above, Alla El-Awaisi, a Clinical Lecturer and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at the College of Pharmacy, said "Socrative clickers have been used recently by a number of instructors at the College of Pharmacy. It is a good way to engage the students, get them connected with you and enhance their learning experience. For me, I use it at different points when I am delivering a lecture for example. Usually, I like to use it at the start, a couple of times in the middle and lastly at the end of the lecture. Students enjoy using clickers as it makes their learning interactive and in many instances it initiates discussion about the topic being discussed. Another aspect I like about clickers is if an opinion question is asked, students are able to respond anonymously, and this allows us to see differences in views expressed by the different students in the class."

Dr. Fatma Abu Jalalah, an English lecturer at the Foundation Program, commented "Socrative clickers proved to be very user-friendly, highly interactive and effective in getting students' feedback. It also keeps students alert throughout the class period. I am using it as a tool to gauge students' understanding and comprehension in an interesting way; for example, using it to give multiple choice and True and False quizzes. It enhances shy and less willing participants to take part in the class activities. The tool lends itself to creating a competitive spirit in the class through using "Space race". It is also useful to give a summing up feedback at the end of the lesson through using "Exit Ticket". Generally, the students gave positive feedback regarding using it in the class where they confirmed that classes now are more motivating and less monotonous".

Faculty members who wish to try out Socrative can refer to BB community for workshop material and visit http://www.socrative.com/ to register and start using the service

A New Technology to Facilitate Interactive Sessions at OFID Training Rooms

The Office of Faculty and instructional Development (OFID), in collaboration with Information Technology Services, upgraded its training rooms with a new interactive system starting Fall 2013. The new interactive system was installed in order to facilitate participants' learning during workshops. With the new setup, participants will be sitting in groups on round tables.

Each group could connect one computer/laptop/tablet to a screen allocated to this group, which allows them to share their work with other participants in the room. The facilitator has the flexibility to select some group work and show it on the main podium screen. The facilitator can also send whatever is on the main screen to all sub screens. All of this can be done using a control panel at the facilitator's podium, without any hassle of moving laptops or swapping USBs.

"The Interactive Classroom is a valuable system to promote teamwork and problem solving strategies, having students brainstorming ideas and finding solutions while working on the same project. As OFID tried it out with colleagues during workshops, I hope that faculty members will think of how to use this interactive system with their students for better learning and more social and professional interaction. Few years back, OFID helped in promoting the best use of the lecture-capture system implemented at CPH; we hope that this innovative means, the interactive classroom system, will become more appealing and widely used in colleges as well." said Dr. Dalal Moukarzel, Director of OFID

Faculty members who are interested in using this interactive system with their students are welcome to book one of OFID training rooms by sending an email to ofid@qu.edu.qa

Microsoft Sponsors a Workshop on Technology Enhanced Instruction at Qatar University

Microsoft, in collaboration with Information Technology Services and The Office of Faculty and Instructional Development organized a full-day workshop on "Technology Enhanced Instruction" at Qatar University on April 5, 2014.

The workshop was facilitated by Microsoft TEI facilitators Dr. David Slykhuis, Associate Professor at James Madison University and President of SITE and Dr. Melanie Shoffner at Purdue University. During the workshop, faculty members discussed the 21st Century Learning design and participated in several activities that introduced them to new organizing and collaborating tools and the TPACK framework. They worked in teams to apply what they have learnt to their instructional planning. A card-matching game was used to help instructors match content, pedagogy and technology.
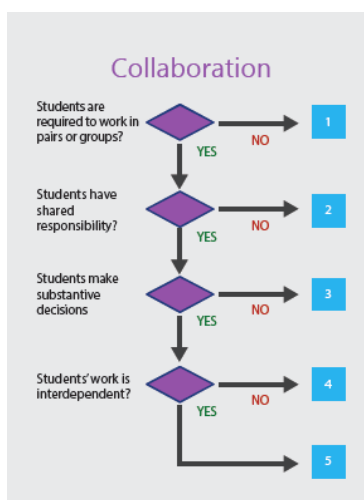
Faculty members enjoyed the new innovative way in which the workshop was delivered though some thought that it could have been covered in less time. Seventy-six faculty members from Qatar University and other Higher education institutes attended the workshop which was scheduled on a Saturday. Dr. Cheri MacLeod, a Teaching Specialist Learning Technologies at the College of North Atlantic said after the workshop: "The highlight for me was the card game that challenged participants to consider tools, pedagogy and content matches. That was useful, collaborative and a completely new way to review the importance of getting a good match."
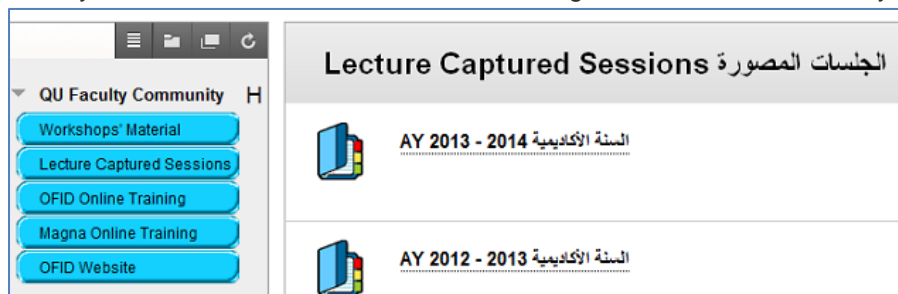
Resources for Faculty Development

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Resources:

- Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: **http://www.stlhe.ca/sotl/what-is-sotl/**
- Indiana University : **http://citl.indiana.edu/programs/sotl/index.php**
- Michigan State University: **http://fod.msu.edu/oir/scholarship-teaching-and-learning-sotl**
- Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania: **http://orgs.bloomu.edu/tale/index.html**
- Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: **http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/scholarship-teaching-learning**

QU Faculty Community on Blackboard   http://elearning.qu.edu.qa/

Faculty members can find material and recording of sessions conducted by OFID

Resources on OFID Website: http://www.qu.edu.qa/offices/ofid/index.php

Some samples:

Blackboard 9.1 step by step Tutorials

- Getting Started with Course Content
- Getting Started with the Grade Center
- Getting Started with Building a test
- Getting Strated with Assignments
- Getting Started with Groups
- A guide to question format structure in Excel
- Creating & Editing pools

- انشاء الواجبات في بلاك بورد9.1
- (SafeAssign) انشاء واجب آمن في بلاك بورد 9.1
- (Wikis) انشاء وتقييم الويكيز في بلاك بورد9.1
- BB Wikis Instructors tutorial
  - BB Wikis instrcutions for students
- Export, Import and Deploy Tests in Blackboard

Resources

Internal(updated)
Online Training (New)
External Resources (New)
Important links from Colleges
Educational Conferences
Blackboard Resources (New)

MOOCS: (Massive Open Online Courses)

- Coursera
- EdX
- Udacity
- Coursesites
- Rwaq - رواق
- EDRAAK - ادراك