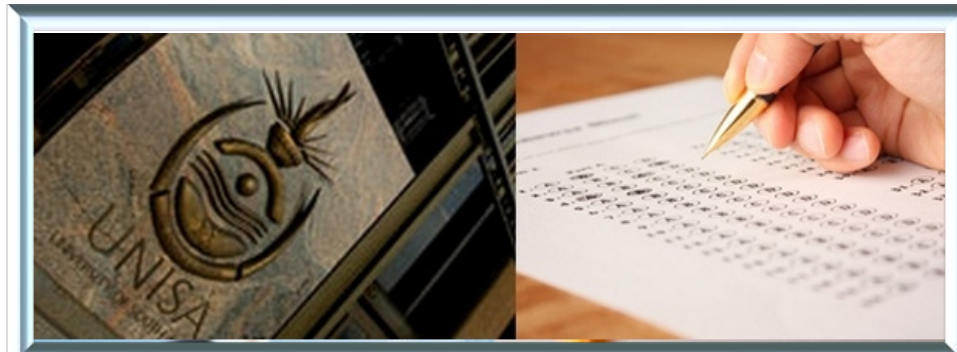


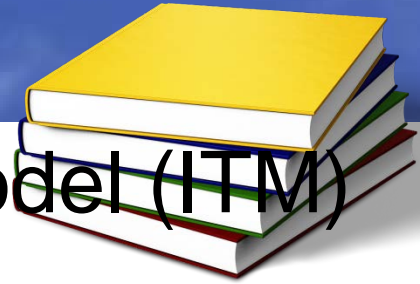
The Usage of E-tutoring(e-learning) system at UNISA



Presented by Thuthu Mkhize
8th Annual Teaching & Learning
High Education Conference Durban

25 September 2014

Outline of Presentation



- Overview of the Integrated Tutor Model (ITM) at UNISA
- Stakeholders involved in the ITM
- Role of the lecturer
- Role of e-tutor in e-classroom
- Facilitation skills for effective e-tutoring
- Challenges experienced by UNISA
- Implementation of a student evaluation system

Introduction



- UNISA: 140 years in existence
- Correspondence Learning
 - Distance Learning (DL)
 - Open Distance Learning (ODL)
 - Open Distance e-learning (ODeL)
- Commitment to student support culminated in the ODeL model
- ODeL model provides a blended teaching and learning option to students

Introduction



- A manner of providing support to students
- Prepare students for computer-literacy demands of 21st century work environment
- Material reaches students directly with few physical resources
- New to Unisa → but here to stay
 - 2013 → NQF 5 → first year modules
 - 2014 → NQF 6 → second year modules

Integrated Tutor Model

- Face-to-Face Tutors
- e-Tutors



Overview of the Integrated Tutor Model at UNISA



- Face-to-face tutors
 - 15 hours of contact per semester
 - Provide guidance and facilitate learning process
 - Classes arranged by regional offices and attended by students
- e-Tutors
 - 75 hours of online contact per semester
 - Provide guidance and facilitate learning process
 - Available from February to May or July to October

Stakeholders Involved in the Integrated Tutor Model



- Lecturer: number of e-tutors depends on total number of students registered for the module per semester
- e-Tutor: allocated group of 200 students

Role of the Lecturer



- Provides a 15 week semester plan
- Clarifies uncertainties
- Monitors e-tutor sites for activity and subject content discussions
- Informs students of e-tutors: tutorial letters, SMSs, regional web sites, Facebook, emails
- Informs students of the role of e-tutors

Role of the e-Tutor in the e-Classroom



- Guidance
- Executes 15 week semester plan of lecturer
- Facilitates and constantly monitors learning process, pace of learning, responds to questions
- Must be active on sites
- Initiates discussions on aspects of syllabus
- Provides exercises to students
- e-Tutor must be active otherwise not paid or deactivated and replaced

Facilitation Skills for Effective e-Tutoring



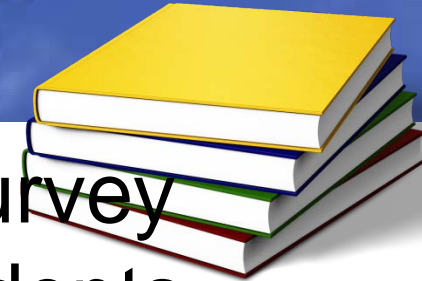
- Constant motivation
- Facilitates student learning
- Content specialist
- Provides answers to student questions or direct student

Challenges Experienced by UNISA



- New model changes all the time
- Lack of access to internet
- e-Learning is bandwidth-intensive
- Academics not trained to provide instruction using e-teaching and e-learning technologies
- e-Learning needs facilitation and lecturers not active
- Students not active on sites, become lurkers instead of active participants
- Find ways to lure students to sites

Implementation of a Student Online Evaluation System (eVALUate)



- Currently provide students with 9 survey questions to ascertain needs of students
- Information provided will assist to improve current e-tutor system
- Information gleaned from students who respond
- Implement a student-centric e-tutor system
- Adopt a phased-in step-by-step approach to e-teaching and e-learning

Conclusion



- UNISA being an open distance e-learning institution implemented e-tutor e-teaching and e-learning model in an e-classroom
- e-Tutor involvement paramount to student success
- More active lecturer → e-tutor → students
- New, experiencing many challenges
- Model changing constantly
- Evaluating the needs and perceptions of the students to improve the implementation



*Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world.*

Nelson Mandela