

Project Title : Professional Development and Capacity Building for Residential Education

Leading University : The University of Hong Kong

Participating UGC-funded Nil
University(ies) :

Project Leader(s) : Dr Wilton W. T. Fok, Faculty of Engineering, The University of Hong Kong

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Layman Summary of Proposal

This project will enhance the quality of residential education and learning for students by developing a sustainable, systematic and scalable staff development programme and nurture a pool of competent staff in student residential halls or colleges. A training framework and strategies, a set of online courses, and a Community of Practice (CoP) for hall/college staff will be developed. A pool of in-house trainers/tutors for hall/college staff who are familiar with the educational goals and pedagogical practices of undergraduate education will be trained. This project will help to equip hall/college staff with professional competence in providing quality learning experience to residential students and to promote exchange of knowledge and good practices in residential education among universities.

There will be three phases in this project. In Phase 1, a series of seminars, training workshops and two overseas study tours will be organised for hall/college staff to acquire knowledge and good practices in residential education. Three local forums, each with a different theme, will be held for practitioners to exchange experience in residential education among the local universities once every six months. In Phase 2, an online course comprising a range of training materials will be developed incorporating the knowledge and practices gained in Phase 1. An overseas expert will be invited to work with the team to develop the training course and share his expertise with colleagues from different institutions. In Phase 3, a sustainable model of training and development for hall/college staff will be built. A conference will be held to

introduce the online course and disseminate other findings and outcomes of this project. A CoP will be formed to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Layman Summary of Final Report

This project emphasised the importance of continuing intellectual pursuits in hall and residential education. A series of workshops related to mediation, conflict management, counselling, leadership skill coaching, special educational needs and academic advising were delivered. A set of online courses were also developed so that current and future tutors can receive proper training for the enhancement of the quality of residential education. The two overseas visits to National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technology University, Harvard University and Princeton University also provided good insights for residential educators to learn the practices in these overseas universities. The International Conference Beyond the Formal Curriculum in universities with over 200 participants from local and overseas universities marked the successful completion of this project. The CoP established through this project will be a good resources for the future development of residential education.