

Medical Education Interest Group Newsletter

Teaching for Learning: What Values Underpin Your Teaching Practice?

January, 2020



Notes from Meeting

Thank you to all of those who come to our January Medical Education Interest Group meeting!



Dr. Catherine Bennett started our year off by speaking to us about understanding the professional values that underpin our teaching practice, and how consideration of these values can drive a more conscious and purposeful professional practice. While there are both intrinsic and extrinsic factors that help drive the culture of learning and teaching in an institution, one must consider that a culture is driven by a set of attitudes, values, beliefs and behaviors shared by a group of people, but are different for each individual, and communicated from one generation to the next.

Catherine reminded us that professional values are: what you think is important, what your guiding principles are, and what the collective elements that guide your actions are (e.g. professional identity, values, beliefs). Discussion continued with groups articulating what they felt were their personal professional values relevant to teaching. And while each group had slightly different ideas, ten common professional values relevant to teaching emerged:

1. Care about what you do (a.k.a. have enthusiasm!)
2. Respect
3. Honesty (with yourself/your abilities, and with your students)
4. Intentionally create safe spaces in your teaching where students are able to make mistakes
5. Stay up to date with current research/best practices
6. Never lose your sense of curiosity...there are always more things to learn
7. Always ask WHY you are telling/teaching students something (make sure you can answer the 'so what' about what you are teaching)
8. Create multiple ways students can access/learn the same information
9. Do NOT spoon feed students (you need to require them to struggle in the appropriate ways, as this type of struggle creates deeper learning and life-long learners)
10. Manage expectations intentionally and openly



Catherine then showed us the Higher Education Academy's (HEA) value framework. A framework designed to drive student engagement, in partnership with teacher. The HEA values are: Authenticity, Honesty, Inclusivity, Reciprocity, Empowerment, Trust, Courage, Plurality and Responsibility.

Finally, we discussed the important task of how to critically evaluate and demonstrate your values in action. Which can be done through a 4-step process: (1) write down your value, (2) describe an example from your teaching that shows that value in action, (3) give reasons why this is important for student learning, and (4) ask what the impact is and what sources of evidence you have to show this.

It was a great session that proved incredibly helpful in having us reflect on the values that personally drive our teaching approaches, and helped us each to critically reflect upon how effective our values are in driving our actions in the classroom.

Slides from the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/42oa1efxtgqu7y5/MEIG%20CB%20Jan%202020%20Professional%20Values%20shared%5B1%5D.pdf?dl=0>

Upcoming Events

Next meeting:

Thursday 13th February, 2020

1300 - MTC 005/007

Dr Greg Moorlock

Topic: TBC

Quote of the Month:

“In teaching and learning, partnership approaches to student engagement are important for student learning, staff engagement, transformation and sustainability.”

Research Article Spotlight:

Minimal effects of reduced teaching hours on undergraduate medical student learning outcomes and course evaluations

Choi-Lundberg, et al. (2020). Medical Teacher, 42(1), 58-65.

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