

## **Title: Reflecting on Staff and Students' Experiences on Curriculum Co-Creation as Part of Academic Development**

Scholarly area: Curriculum and academic development

Oral presentation

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### **ABSTRACT**

Academic development of students and staff is a critical element in Higher Education especially with reference to engagement of both parties in curriculum development. Cook-Sather, Matthews, and Bell (2019) advocate for curriculum co-creation as one of the forms of student and staff engagement, which yield significant benefits enjoyed by both parties in terms of their agency. The cooperation between different agents is argued to have the potential to influence effective design and implementation of the curriculum (Dollinger and Lodge, 2020). In this paper, I reflect, as an academic developer, on the experiences of both academic staff and students on their engagement in curriculum co-creation with specific focus on the development of a study guide for the newly developed module which is part of the decolonisation process. As part of the newly established Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) project within the faculty, I have applied for ethical clearance to the Ethics Committee to conduct research in the faculty and the university. Literature on academic development and co-creation is also engaged with in order to provide a background and underpin this study. The development of this study guide is an interdisciplinary process which engaged five (5) disciplines within the Faculty of The Humanities at the University of the Free State, South Africa. The active role players in the co-creation are heads of departments, programme directors, lecturers and in some cases students from the five disciplines, as well as two academic developers. Qualitative narratives will be collected from all people who were involved in the process to respond to the questions:

- To what extent has your participation in the co-creation advanced your knowledge of curriculum development?
- What is your view of the influence of curriculum co-creation on the design and delivery of curriculum?
- How has your participation impacted on your self-development?

Thematic analysis will be conducted in order to capture the main experiences from the reflections. The reflections recorded, whether positive or negative will be used in future engagements on curriculum development as part of academic development within the faculty and shared with other faculties in inter-faculty engagements.

### **Key concepts**

Academic development, Co-creation, Curriculum, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning