



**Covenant University**

Raising a new Generation of Leaders

# DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE TUTORIAL SYSTEM IN COVENANT UNIVERSITY

**Workshop on Teaching Improvement  
Executive Advance - 2016/2017 Academic Session**

**For**

**Faculty and Senior Non-Teaching Staff**

**Theme: 'RECITE' APPROACH FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF VISION 10:2022**

**Presenter: Henry Okodua, PhD**

**Date: Tuesday, 2nd August, 2016**

**Venue: African Leadership Development Centre**

# OUTLINE



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- Introduction
- Why Tutorials?
- Is a Tutorial Committee Really Needed?
- Tips for Effective Tutorials
- Suggested Strategies for Making Tutorials Inclusive
- Concluding Remarks
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# Introduction



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- A Catholic Priest once went to preach in an outside parish. He preached a beautiful sermon in Latin Language
- When the priest invited the parishioners for the Holy Communion, he observed that nobody came forward. That was when he realized that the people he has been talking to didn't understand the Latin Language.
- The story of the Latin Priest paints a vivid picture of the average teacher in a typical Nigerian University today. S/he tends to be talking/disseminating so much to the student, but in a “language” that the average student does not understand.
- The dilemma here is that the student learns little or nothing from such teacher.
- There is therefore the need for thorough planning and good communication between students and teacher if teaching must be successful.



# Introduction (cont.)



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- One good way of complementing lectures for the purpose of enhanced learning is to regularly organize tutorials.
- In specific terms, tutorials provide enhanced learning opportunities for students when they assemble in relatively small groups to discuss academic matters in their own language.
- The tutorial context has the added advantage of allowing interactions that are not feasible in regular lectures.
- Tutorials must however not be confused for repeat lectures or lectures of any kind. The two are not the same thing.



# Why Tutorials?



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- Parents pay heavily for their wards to get a university education at CU
- Education will not occur unless learning has taken place
- Parents desire and deserve value for their money
- The job of every lecturer includes motivating his or her students to learn effectively
- Tutorials help promote the learning environment for students and even for the lecturer
- Tutorials also enable the lecturer prepare his or her students for better performance in examinations
- Organizing tutorials is therefore one of the deliverables of every lecturer at CU

# Is a Tutorial Committee Really Needed?



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- Ideally, the tutorial system like every system should be self-running.
- So far, the CU Tutorial Committee has developed a workable structure for an effective tutorial system in the University
- The ultimate goal is to have an effective tutorial system with collective accomplishments that constitute a “Movement” rather than a “Monument” in the University
- A **movement** here refers to a group of people that keeps advancing a common goal, while a **monument** stands alone on one spot for people to admire or celebrate
- All self-running systems are however often exposed to the danger of crashing
- A vibrant tutorial committee is therefore needed to keep driving the tutorial system for safety and for desired results



# Tips for Effective Tutorials



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- **Demonstrate Empathy:** Successful tutoring requires empathy with the students – here the tutor tries to remember his or her personal experiences as an undergraduate and occasionally share this with the group as appropriate.
- **Demonstrate self-confidence always:** Understand that even the most experienced teachers do occasionally have bad teaching days. If something goes wrong in a tutorial session, have confidence in yourself and take charge by productively engaging the groups in some other ways.
- **Interact more with your colleagues:** Sharing ideas and strategies is one of the best ways to promote the learning environment and also ensure effective tutorials.

# Tips for Effective Tutorials (cont.)



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- **Never dominate the tutorial:** When the tutor dominates the tutorials, students learn less. When students are allowed to dominate the tutorials, they learn better, and the tutor gets much more enjoyment and satisfaction out of the tutorials.
- **Demonstrate passion for the subject:** Students value lecturers who are not only excited about the course they teach, but share their knowledge with great enthusiasm.
- **Demonstrate humor:** Remember, to be humorous is to be human. Always maintain your sense of humor and help defuse tension in the classroom.



# Suggested Strategies for Making Tutorials Inclusive



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- Develop a culture of feedback. Provide regular feedback about what the student or group has done well and what needs improvement. Do also encourage the students to evaluate your class periodically. They can do this anonymously.
- Develop a model for involving “*quiet*” students. Avoid rushing in to answer all the questions – give students responsibility for answering each other’s questions, with your guidance anyway.
- Develop a model for managing “*dominant*” students. Affirm the dominant individual. Openly appreciate their contribution, but also insist on fairness to all by giving everyone the chance to contribute. The tutor can move around the classroom so as to avoid the temptation to stand/sit close to the dominant personalities all the time.
- Let each group comprise dominant and quiet students. Such mix of students will help ensure that no group dominate the tutorial session



# Concluding Remarks



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- An effective tutorial system in Covenant University can be made possible by the cooperation of all
- The University has a role to play
- The lecturer has an important role to play, and
- The student has even a more important role to play
- We can all join hands to make learning experience more exciting for all CU students



# Appreciation



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THANK YOU  
FOR  
LISTENING

