Diversity and Inclusivity in the Syllabus

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INTRODUCTIONS

Classroom is a commonplace to experience diversity.

Nowadays, students have varied personalities, identities, and worldviews which are shaped by their culture, ethnicities, religion, languages educational experience, geographic locations, and socio-economic status (Awang-Hashim, et al, 2019).

Inclusive strategies are needed to promote belongingness and community in the classroom.

Syllabus, can provide the atmosphere of the class even before the class starts.

By convention, students are on the receiving end of this document exchange. It is usually written by a professor and given to the students at the beginning of the term.

It is rare to see students’ presence reflected in the syllabus.

METHODS

A Faculty Learning Committee in the Teaching Resource Center provided professional development to faculty who applied to participate.

A year-long workshops were sponsored to discuss various issues about diversity and learn inclusive pedagogies.

As a deliverable, each participant is asked to devise a plan or a project on how they can address diversity in their departments and promote a circle of inclusivity.

My project is to adopt one page in the syllabus that will be dedicated to the welfare and interest of students to bolster their success.

CONCLUSION

Overall, diversity in the classroom is only going to be more visible than not.

It is every faculty member’s responsibility to equip themselves with information that will make them effective educators.

If the syllabus can offer a welcoming vibe by developing one-page involving students’ interest, then faculty should be considerate to this request.

LESSONS LEARNED

All in all, this was a hard venture for a lecturer to propose to faculty with higher ranks. A sense of fear and embarrassment is always at the thought of introducing a proposal.

However, if we are not brave enough to start a conversation about issues surrounding our students then we have failed them as advocates.

At the end, the faculty voted unanimously to adopt a page.

References

