

Title: **Pouring the Perfect Pina Colada: can course planning ever be fun?**

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

- Delegates will be aware of the possibility for creativity and fun in the more policy driven areas of curriculum development such as course planning.
- Delegates will be aware of a range of possible advantages and drawbacks to conducting curriculum development activities outside the subject context.

Session Outline

Our University's Annual Learning, Teaching & Assessment (LTA) conference presents the opportunity for staff from different discipline areas to come together, share ideas and experiences, and reflect on practice. This session will introduce a workshop we presented at the conference, where we were keen to provide an opportunity to have a bit of fun while thinking about module delivery (unheard of!).

The idea was to use the opportunity to take participants out of their own subject area and, we hoped, provide them with a bit of space to think creatively. So, playing shamelessly on this year's conference theme - "Mixing the LTA Cocktail: exploring flexibility and diversity in Learning, Teaching & Assessment" - we took staff on a visit to Utopian University (UU) where the global market-leading course in Desert Island Management (DIM) was being re-validated.

The response from the workshop was overwhelmingly - and unexpectedly! - positive, with attendees requesting materials used in the workshop to use with their own course planning teams. For others, it simply reminded them that course planning doesn't have to be painful.

So where do we go from here? Can we adapt the materials so that they can be used to support professional development for course planning teams? Are there elements from this session we can use to inform other areas of curriculum development?

Session Activities

- Group work activities planning a module for the Utopian University's Desert Island Management Course.
- Activities for reflection on why the workshop was a success and how we can develop the ideas from the workshop further.

References

We would like to use this opportunity to reflect on the workshop and get feedback from delegates on how we might develop ideas from the session in future curriculum development. As such the session does not rely on any key texts.