

# **A Teaching Culture Inventory to Assess and Enhance the Departmental Learning Space**

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While much has been written about the place of good teaching in higher education, less has been written about how to develop a teaching culture within a department. Yet, as Knight and Trowler (2000) argued, unless the departmental culture promotes good teaching, there is little impetus for academics to improve their teaching. Thus we should focus on the departmental space if attempting to foster a vibrant teaching culture. Moreover, as Knight and Trowler proposed, we should target the leaders of departments, as they are the key to improving the teaching culture. Accordingly, in my poster, I present a Teaching Culture Inventory (TCI) that is designed to assist departmental leaders to take stock of their teaching culture. The TCI comprises a checklist of 60 items that are clustered into nine categories: planning for teaching; articulation of graduate profiles and graduate attributes; providing a supportive environment for student learning; fostering close research-teaching links; providing rich and diverse educational opportunities; using technology wisely in teaching; promotion of the scholarship of teaching and learning; quality assurance and quality enhancement of teaching; and professional development for teaching. The TCI is designed to promote reflection on the departmental teaching culture, and by using this tool it is hoped that departmental leaders are better placed to improve student learning in their departments. The TCI has been used in a leadership programme with Heads of Department and feedback was very positive. Through discussion of the TCI with the HERDSA audience, I hope to further refine the inventory.