12 Self-evaluation Questions for Improved Academic Resilience

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Instructions: These questions are supposed to help you assess your own personal level of teaching and learning resilience. Use them as a guide to identify areas for improvement. In a major disruption, several issues arise which dominantly revolve around lack of access to your office, lack of access to campus teaching space, lack of access to hardcopy teaching materials and equipment, and a reliance on remote means of communicating with students. These aspects require academics to shift their normal pedagogy and adapt to the new circumstances.

First: Respond to each set of questions.

Second: Look at your responses, and consider whether your answers make it easier or harder to deliver teaching and learning, during and following a major disruption. Which ones require the most assistance from ITS, CAD and other supports?

Third: Pick three areas which you feel are the most important and that you would like to tackle first.

1. Do you feel that you are the only person who can teach the majority of the content delivered in your course? Do you have a staff redundancy in place?

2. Does the majority of your core course content (i.e., lectures, readings, lab topics) change every year?

3. If you were unable to return to your office because of a campus shutdown, would you have the basic resources necessary to provide lectures (or something equivalent) remotely?

4. If you were unable to return to your office because of a campus shutdown, would you have the basic resources necessary to provide tutorials or labs-based activities (or something equivalent) remotely?

5. Do you require the use of samples or physical materials to teach core components of the course?

6. Do you require the use of static, specialised or expensive equipment which is situated on campus to teach core components of the course?

7. Are your teaching files backed up or stored in the cloud, or another external location? To what extent are they accessible remotely?

8. Is the majority of your current course assessment paper-based/hard copy?

9. Instead of paper-based or in person assessments, would you consider using digital forms of assessment?

10. Do you use Blackboard (or something equivalent) to deliver course content, provide grades and communicate with students?

11. In the event of a major campus-wide disruption, how confident are you that you could rapidly communicate with your students?

12. Are you familiar with group/video conferencing software (e.g., Skype, Zoom, Google Chat) and would you use it for remote teaching?