

Message from the FDC Coordinator



I would like to thank all the faculty for attending the activities of the FDC and for their valuable comments and suggestions. If you would like to lead a workshop or have suggestions for a specific topic, please feel free to email me at: mpolloshka@auk.org

*All the best,
Mimoza Polloshka*

Teaching Excellence Certification Component at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)



On January 25th and 26th, 2018, the Associate Provost for Transformative Learning and Teaching, Founding Director of the Center for Learning and Teaching of the American University in Cairo, Dr. Aziza Ellozy visited our campus and conducted training workshops

for our faculty as part of the project "Support of Teaching Excellence Certification Component at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) through collaboration of Faculty Development Centers". This activity has been enabled through the financial support by AMICAL Small Grants, and initiated by our Coordinator of the Faculty Development Center, Mimoza Polloshka, with supporting faculty. The purpose of this initiative is to motivate faculty to attend seminars and workshops helping them rethink their course design, teaching methods, gain a deeper understanding of how learning takes place and design course activities around higher-order learning objectives. The certification program will count as evidence for professional development when faculty applies for promotion or teaching excellence awards.

"Asymmetric Decentralization in Kosovo and its Consequences"



March 23rd 2018
Professor Besnik Bislimi
Fiscal decentralization involves allocation of responsibilities from central governments to regional and/or local authorities.

A large number of developing countries are implementing decentralization reforms as an alternative to their inefficient and instable central governments. In the case of Kosovo, fiscal decentralization was increasingly supported by political rather than efficiency arguments. Due to extended responsibilities assigned to municipalities inhabited mainly with citizens of the serb minority, or so called asymmetric decentralization, the process of decentralization was heavily used as an instrument to ensure the territorial integrity of the country. Nevertheless, the final outcome may not necessary correlate to the initial intention, and instead additional competencies allocated to some municipalities may be used to undermine the efficiency and so further disintegrate the state. The presentation focused on several aspects of asymmetric fiscal decentralization, including its impact on the quality of fiscal policies, efficiency in the provision of public good and the overall macroeconomic implications.

During the two intensive days, Dr. Aziza Ellozy conducted the following training workshops:

1. Designing student-centered learning outcomes ;
2. The art of discussion leading;
3. The enhanced lecture;
4. Concept mapping across the disciplines;
5. CATs to improve student learning;
6. Structured Academic controversy - Debating for consensus.

The faculty found all the shared teaching and learning approaches very informative, helpful and extremely useful for applying them in their classes. A follow up to these activities is planned by organizing a survey with faculty for their needs and also organizing forums where faculty will discuss the benefits and possible constraints in applying the above teaching and learning approaches in their respective classes.

Faculty Development Center



The mission of the Faculty Development Center of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) is to build an inclusive and sustainable teaching and learning environment by addressing faculty needs and interests in the areas of teaching effectiveness and professional development.

Our goal is to provide members of the broader campus community with resources to assist them in their work. The ultimate goal of the center is to provide the faculty body at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) with an ongoing opportunity to develop new teaching approaches for the purpose of meeting our students' learning needs.

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Faculty Development Center was established in October 2015 with the financial support of the U.S Embassy through a University Support Grant (USG).

Cybersecurity Case Study in Kosovo



*April 19th 2018,
Professor Driart Elshani*

After making a general introduction and situational awareness regarding Cybersecurity in the world, Professor Elshani presented a particular case study in Cybersecurity regarding a major bank in Kosovo. On focus of the presentation was Cybersecurity Policy in the national and international context as well as the objectives and guidelines for Cybersecurity risk mitigation. Different scenarios in Cybersecurity and risk management related to them were discussed. Issues that were evoked included Cybersecurity laws and regulations, moving from reactive to proactive Cybersecurity and a checklist of questions for CEO-s to manage Cybersecurity at an organization. Attendants found this presentation to be very interesting and suggested to repeat it in October, this time for the entire community including students and external audience at large.



"Internationalization of Business Studies: Dealing with Classroom Diversity"

*March 27th 2018,
Professor Harri Tuomola*

Valkeakoski is a small town (pop. 20,000) in Southern Finland. It is a factory town which literally has lived off the forest, as the town grew around a massive paper mill. It is the home of UPM, the fourth largest forestry company in the world. In the 1980s the big business started to push the development of business education in English, and that is how the internationalization of business education in a very unlikely place got started. Valkeakoski had international business programs much before they became fashionable. Over the past thirty years hundreds of young people from all over the world have come to study to a small, conservative town in Finland. Almost as many have completed their studies. Many have returned to their home countries, some have stayed, and some have moved on. Most of them have good lives and fine careers, so something has been done right. But easy it has been not. There are many lessons learned, most of them hard way. As I have been involved with most of this process, I am happy to share my experiences coping with international students and agenda in a very monocultural environment.