

eLearnit 2020 Virtual Conference

Navigating Through COVID-19 to Ensure Quality Learning

9-11 June 2020

Dear Sir / Madame,

We would like to express our thanks in your vital contribution to eLearnit 2020. It has brought robust value to the learning experience. We have received questions from our attendees that were not put forward during the live session. We hope you do not mind answering them so these may be uploaded onto the conference website as additional resource. You may choose not to answer any questions that were already tackled during the live session. Please insert your responses after each question below.

Name of Speaker: Dr. Mona Suri

Date and Time of Presentation: 9th June 2020

Title of Presentation: Academic Leadership in COVID 19 Situation: Challenges and Opportunities

Questions:

1. What traits or character do you believe present leaders need to have or develop in order to respond effectively in the current environment?

In my opinion in today's situation leaders need to be agile, flexible, collaborative showing empathy to their teams.

2. Please let us know how was cancelling of midterm exams accommodated in the plan. Who was the authority involved... how was it negotiated?

We have constituted a Special task force (STF) at RUW chaired by the President and comprising of Academic Vice President, Special Assistant to the President for Strategy and Student Life, Registrar, Legal Counsel, Manager Facilities and Services, Manager HR and Manager ICT. Due to the suddenness of closure of Campus by the Governmental notification, the Mid Term exams were cancelled, and the Grade distributions were altered by adding a new assessment on Engagement with online environment instead. The Student Council President and three members from the elected council were invited to the STF where the matter was discussed and

student's opinion was taken into consideration, without affecting the academic standards and guidelines of the RUW Assessment policy.

3. How was the psychomotor component of learning addressed? I mean hands on skills.

The Design courses at RUW like Fashion Design, Interior design and graphic design are the ones that have psychomotor component in evaluation. It was the most challenging part of assessment. Wherever possible (like in Graphic and interior design) design software were used to simulate the actual hands on. For Fashion students worked at home and submitted the videos of their work. Many of the final studio exams had to be converted into projects, where research and other skills were highlighted.

In my opinion this is a huge challenge and we are working in this direction.

4. My question is how you ensure the academic honesty rules are applied in assessments in your university?

We have a Plagiarism policy at RUW that was implemented as per policy and procedure. All project reports, written reports, essays, review papers were submitted via Turnitin on Moodle or Via mail with a similarity report.

Formative assessment was done wherever possible to ensure that students were doing the work and weekly progress was being evaluated.

Students submitted oral/ video presentations based on the work that was being evaluated in a consistent manner.

For real time exams in College of Engineering, students were given limited time to answer and were asked to keep cameras on.

Proctoring tools are being explored for better control of real time exams.