

Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) Programme 2023



The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Programme

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1. Introduction

The scholarship of teaching and learning is a term coined by Schulman (2011:4) who argues that to be deemed “scholarship,” teaching and learning has to encompass three essential features: “it should be public, subject to peer review and evaluation, and accessible for exchange and use by members of one’s disciplinary community”.

According to Huber and Hutchings (2005), SoTL is an approach whereby communities of teachers who are committed to pedagogical inquiry and innovation, meet to exchange ideas about teaching and learning and subsequently apply emanating ideas to address the challenges of educating students. Using the SoTL approach, teachers identify and investigate questions about their students’ learning which reflects to the classroom in terms of applying new curricular, new assessment methods and new pedagogies, which in turn become subjects of new inquiry. By using evidence-gathering and documentation strategies, teachers make their students’ learning more visible, and this helps scholars of teaching and learning to develop their capacity as observant, thoughtful and innovative teachers. Simultaneously, making their work public contributes to pedagogical knowledge in their disciplines (Hutchings, Huber and Ciccone, 2011) and creates a new space of pedagogical exchange and collaboration (Huber and Hutchings, 2005).

The scholarship of teaching and learning promotes teaching as a scholarly endeavor, while drawing on the reciprocal relationship between teaching and learning, and research. According to Hutchings et al., (2011), SoTL encapsulates research and teaching & learning.

SoTL differs in scholarly and reflective teaching as it does not only involve questioning one's teaching or a teaching strategy, but formal gathering and exploring evidence, researching the literature, refining, and testing practices and publicizing. The purpose of SoTL is not just to make an impact on student learning, but through formal, peer-reviewed communication, contribute to the larger knowledge base on teaching and learning (Bishop-Clark & Dietz-Uhler, 2012).

The SoTL programme is CPUT two-year in-house programme; in the first year, different workshops are conducted and in the second year, the actual writing activities occur where in an output is envisaged to be published in a peer-reviewed journal and presentations in different conferences, nationally and internationally. Upon successful completion of the SoTL programme, candidates will receive a CPUT certificate.

2. Aims of the SoTL programme:

At CPUT, SoTL is aligned to Vision 2023 and framed along ONENESS and SMARTNESS. SoTL participants are encouraged to align their reflections, where possible, with the dimensions as captured below:

The notion of **One Smart CPUT** is designed in terms of two key dimensions that are in support of CPUT's one smart university concept.

Dimension 1: Oneness – The oneness dimension of V2030 is focused on our human-centricity through our smart people and the smart CPUT community that values and embraces unity (*ubunye*) in diversity (*ukungafani*). It directs CPUT to view itself in terms of trust, values, co-thinking, co-learning, co-creating and co-designing, dialogue and a unified spirit. For CPUT to become human-centric and human-hearted, it will require more than staffing, skills transfer, shared values and style, but will require a conscious way of living and shaping an identity of who we are and what we aspire to be as a collective or how we communicate and share information and build relationships at CPUT. Thus, we will ascribe to an African philosophy of "*ukuhamba unxibe izihlangu zomney umntu*", meaning, "to walk in someone else's shoes".

Dimension 2: Smartness – The smartness dimension of CPUT's strategy is focused on technological developments and innovations as considered by the current and future industrial revolutions. It supports the notion that CPUT, as a University of Technology, will embrace technology in the broadest and most positive sense to advance a better humanity, better socio-economic circumstances, better health conditions, education, safety, food security and general living conditions in our region, the rest of Africa and globally. Smartness will embrace a philosophy of open innovation – advocating to create better futures, communities and careers.

SoTL programme in this context, will give a community of academics the knowledge and skills to pursue teaching and learning in a scholarly manner and make their works public.

The SoTL programme aims to:

- ❖ Explore and promote the notion of researcher development as an emerging field in academic staff development.
- ❖ Develop a university-wide community of scholars of teaching and learning.
- ❖ Apply the principles of the scholarship of teaching and learning to departmental pedagogical and curricular initiatives for the enhancement of student learning.
- ❖ Raise the intellectual profile of teaching in the disciplines.
- ❖ Build capacity among academics to become successful SoTL practitioners.

3. Who are CPUT SoTL participants?

This is an in-house programme for CPUT academic scholars. The envisaged participants are CPUT emerging scholars who want to improve their publication/research profile.

Who is an emerging researcher in this context?

- ❖ Early career academics who are in the process of establishing themselves as researchers.
- ❖ Be in a possession of a B-Tech or Honours degree (Junior Lecturer level), Masters (Lecturer level) and PhD (within 5 years of completing a PhD).
- ❖ Postgraduate students who are enrolled for PhD and Masters' qualifications.
- ❖ Be employed as an academic or support staff at CPUT working with students – e.g., lab technicians, library technicians etc.
- ❖ Be willing to engage in contextualized inquiry-based educational research.
- ❖ Be willing to learn and develop your own reflective research profile.

4. The outcomes of the SoTL programme

Some of the envisaged outcomes are as follows:

- ❖ The research findings of pedagogical experimentation that could be used for evidence-based teaching for the enhancement of teaching and improvement of student performance.
- ❖ The empowerment of academics as researchers in teaching and learning, within the disciplines.
- ❖ Research outputs in accredited journal articles and conference proceedings which will generate income for the individual, department, and the institution, and contribute positively to the ranking of the institution.

5. Structure of the SoTL programme

The SoTL programme is structured so that it would provide:

- ❖ Access to the relevant literature,
- ❖ Methodological expertise,
- ❖ Space for discussion and collaboration with like-minded colleagues and
- ❖ Mentoring from experienced researchers. The SoTL candidates will be expected to attend the workshops as shown below and complete the necessary homework tasks. The successful completion of the SoTL programme will be contingent on the submission of a journal article for publication or presentation/publication of a conference paper.

SoTL Activities 2023

DATE	WORKSHOP (YEAR 1)	Presenters
20 April 10h00- 13h00	Defining SoTL in the context of CPUT and Identifying a niche area or researchable project.	Dr Z. Masuku; Mr L. Nendauni & Dr Vuyokazi
18 May 10h00- 13h00	Designing research project	External presenter,
22 June 10h00- 13h00	Building an ethical framework for your research	Dr N. Mkhonto and Mr T. Mtonjeni.
27 July 10h00- 13h00	How to search for reading material using appropriate search engines. Reviewing the literature.	Library Facilitator External presenter
17 August 10h00- 13h00	Theoretical frameworks; philosophical foundations	Dr Xena Cupido (ubuntu concept); Ms Frederika de Graaf
21 September 10h00- 13h00	Training in Research Methods & Methodology	Dr Z. Masuku; Mr L. Nendauni; Dr V. Mntuyedwa
19 October	Quantitative approaches and data analysis methods	Dr F. George & external presenter.

10h00-13h00		
2 November 10h00-13h00	Qualitative approaches and data analysis methods	Dr Najwa Norodien-Fataar
8 Nov 10h00-13h00	Preparing for a conference presentation & preparing for a Journal article publication	Dr Zanele Masuku, coordinators, mentors & Presenters
8-10 November 10h00-13h00	Writing retreat (Abstracts & article writing) Identifying SoTL research projects [for 2023 & 2024]	Coordinators and Presenters.

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