Innovative Strategies and Tools to Enrich Knowledge

ASKING STUDENTS TO HELP DESIGN COURSES

This article published in the Chronicle of Higher Education details the benefits of student input in higher education course design. The author uses Olin College of Engineering as a case study, where faculty members regularly check in with students to see if assignments are meeting course goals. Olin offers “student led courses” where students learn by independent study in groups and students are hired to aid in the development of new courses.

The article also presents two tips for educators, which are summarized below:

1. Using “exit tickets”, a strategy where students write short reflections on the material they learned that class. It is suggested that this exercise makes for deeper reading on the next class or lecture.

2. Administering diagnostic tests at the beginning of a course to assess students’ knowledge levels on fundamental concepts. This information is valuable to instructors seeking to provide a course that’s more tailored to their students.

The full article can be accessed at the link below: