

Proposal for request of additional funding to support the implementation of OBE at School of Design in 2007/08

Introduction

Although Outcome-Based Education (OBE) has been introduced through the Curriculum Revision exercise in 2004 it is an ongoing process. Our School's challenge is to have a shared understanding among faculty that assessment of student learning outcomes is about improving learning. And to involve front-line academic colleagues at all levels for implementing outcome-based approaches in student learning. The development of OBE in our Business Plan for 2007/08 is as follows:

- 1 ensure a clear understanding and agreement of the OBE within the faculty and other stakeholders including students, alumni, advisory boards, Departmental Academic Advisor and employers
- 2 conduct an audit of how the learning outcomes have been achieved at programme & subject levels i.e. whether and to what extent objectives have been met
- 3 find out concerns/difficulties encountered by front-line academic colleagues at the implementation stage
- 4 review the curriculum & subject syllabi and identify areas for further improvement or changes
- 5 develop a plan to advance assessment of student learning outcomes at programme & subject level

Action Plan for Implementation / Enhancement of OBE in SD

Set up an OBE committee in SD. Membership includes the OBE Champion as Chair, SLTC Chair & members, Programme Leaders and Discipline Leaders + part-time teaching staff reps. & student reps. to steer and implement OBE in SD. The implementation will continue over 3 phases.

PHASE I (2007/08)

- Identify areas needing attention regarding enhancement of OBE in SD by conducting an audit of how student learning outcomes have been achieved at programme & subject levels. Front-line academic colleagues are encouraged to submit proposals for earmarked funding for developing OBE.

PHASE II (2008/09)

- Design assessment tools to collect evidence to demonstrate students' attainment of the programme outcomes from internal & external data e.g. programme evaluation forms, graduate & employer surveys etc.
- Recommendations for improvement of programme / subjects based on survey results + publication of good practices & OBE funded projects will be disseminated through SD's OBE web site

PHASE III (2009/10)

- Repeat cycle of School-wide review of the status of OBE
 - Recommendations for improvement of programme / subjects based on survey results
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PHASE I (2007/08)

Identify areas needing attention regarding enhancement of OBE in SD

1. Review programmes in terms of alignment between the PolyU mission, School mission, programme / subject intended learning outcomes (ILOs) with respect to relevancy to professional requirement & clarity

Note: This is not another paper exercise but a health check that could lead to real improvement in teaching & student learning

2. Identify areas that may require enhancement / changes e.g. the attainment of generic competencies stated in PolyU's Strategic Objectives 1.1
3. Revise programme / subject ILOs, teaching & learning activities + assessment criteria as appropriate
4. Involve front-line academic colleagues (full-time & part-time) at all levels in the review & revision exercise
5. Provide OBE workshops & sharing forums for faculty development
6. Make recommendations for both short-term & long-term assessment planning e.g. programme assessment plans should include elements that show both professional skills & generic competences

Schedule and activities

- 1 Late August 2007
Induction on key concepts & developmental needs of outcome-based approaches in student learning at the School retreat
- 2 Sept. - Nov. 2007
Know-how workshops (with support from EDC & consultants) for front-line academic colleagues to ensure a clear understanding of OBE & to consider developing appropriate techniques in assessing student learning outcomes before preparing proposals for *Earmarked Funding for Promoting Outcome-based Approaches in Student Learning*

- 3 Mid Sept. 2007
Programme / Discipline Leaders to meet with their teaching team to review their programme / subject ILOs & alignment with teaching and assessment methods i.e. mapping of subject outcomes to programme outcomes

Note: Although it is important to integrate Strategic Objectives 1 (SO1) into subjects it is not expected that every subject has objectives that meet all of SO1.
- 4 Sept. 2007 – April 2008
Conduct sharing forums on good examples of OBE & student assessment for faculty/students
- 5 Oct. 2007
Identify areas that may require changes e.g. SD should incorporate in its school assessment plan direct performance assessments on a few selected outcomes that are most pertinent to the purposes and objectives of the School.
- 6 Jan. 2008
Programme Leaders report to SD's OBE committee on review progress and areas for improvement at an OBE retreat
- 7 April 2008
Complete and submit revised programme / subject ILOs
- 8 May – July 2008
Revised documents reviewed & approved by the SD OBE committee
- 9 August 2008
Approved documentation ready for dissemination to faculty & students through the SD OBE web site
- 10 Sept. 2008
Front-line academic colleagues to communicate OBE to students clearly at subject briefing and during teaching & learning process, and to remind students of the ILOs to be assessed

Expected outcomes

1. Communicate the educational values of Outcome-Based Education effectively and clarify the characteristics & acronyms e.g. OBE, ILO, CRA etc.
2. Explain the significance of the review exercise based on the previous Curriculum Revision in 2004
3. Review existing programme / subject specific ILOs to ensure that they are mapped at University level, programme level and subject level in terms of professional & generic competences i.e. curriculum mapping
4. Ensure that teaching and assessment methods are aligned to the subject ILOs
5. Identify gaps / areas requiring enhancement or changes
6. Ascertain the attainment of generic competencies stated in Strategic Objectives 1 within programme / subjects
7. Revise or rewrite programme / subject specific ILOs, teaching & learning activities + assessment criteria
8. Explicit documentation & publication posted on a SD OBE website to improve teaching & learning

Requested budget with justifications

1. Project Associate

The responsibility is to assist the OBE Champion in promoting & implementing outcome-based approaches in student learning in SD in the following ways:

- conduct an audit of how the learning outcomes have been achieved at programme & subject levels
- Gather and analyse information e.g. surveys of students & alumni to demonstrate to external auditors the process & outcomes of SD's effort on OBE
- Identify good practices / materials for sharing & show-casing
- Assist in coordinating sharing seminars / workshops and retreats
- Liaise with a web designer to develop a web site for OBE in SD

2. Survey data collation & tabulation

3. OBE website (linked to the SD web)

- To house OBE documentations + case studies on utilization of students' learning outcomes to improve teaching & learning
- To provide an online platform to exchange ideas and disseminate experiences
- To create a sustainable OBE data base for stakeholders' reference e.g. faculty, students and employers

4. Retreat expenses + light lunch for lunch-time workshops

- Two OBE retreats + a number of lunch-time workshops will be organized to stimulate awareness and facilitate dedicated discussion / sharing of OBE issues among faculty

Thank you for your attention. Please contact Mrs. Alice Lo, our School's OBE Champion at ext. 5465 or email at sdalichel@polyu.edu.hk if you have any questions regarding this proposal.



Prof. Lorraine Justice
Director of School of Design
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University