Happy Chinese New Year

Rector Yonghua SONG visits FED of the University of Macau

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OBJECTIVES

To disseminate educational ideals and report on faculty and student activities of FED;

To provide an easy and user-friendly platform for academic staff;

To promote a sharing culture and boost teacher education and professional development.

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Academic Staff Activities

1. Rector Yonghua SONG visits FED of the University of Macau


3. Fudan University and East China Normal University Delegation Visits FED

4. Seminar on Models and Modeling Processes in Science Education

5. 2018 CTLE Spring Workshop “Panel Presentation on Rain Classroom” with FED Staff Prof. Kan Kan CHAN, Prof. Si Man LEI, Prof. Zihao LI & Dr. Soi Po WONG
On 18 January 2018, Prof. Yonghua SONG, Rector of the University of Macau, visited the Faculty of Education, University of Macau. Prof. Lionel M. NI, Vice Rector (Academic Affairs) and Interim Dean of FED, and leading teachers of FED attended the meeting. Based on the teaching mission and vision of the FED, Prof. Ni introduced the undergraduate and postgraduate programs and curriculum arrangements in detail. He also elaborated on the situation of student enrollment, teaching and research. In addition, Prof. Ni presented and analyzed the opportunities and challenges. He pointed out: “FED is faced with enormous opportunities and challenges under the current education system, such as growing research productivity, many young and promising assistant professors, good quality of local intake and active involvement in DSEJ (Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, Macao) projects.”

Then teachers’ representatives expressed their views on their teaching and research fields. They also put forward some new ideas and solutions for the problems faced in teaching and research. During the discussion, Rector Song commended the FED staff for their work and research and appreciated the mission of serving Macao Education system and promoting academic research in education. Prof. Song said that the UM will strongly support FED curriculum reform, and teaching innovation. Thanks to the leadership and hard work of Prof. Ni and of the FED staff, it is believed that the teaching and research of FED will go on smoothly and scale new heights.

Academia Staff Activities

Seminar on “Weekday Rural Teachers, Weekend Urban Spouses and Parents”: A Chinese Case of How Alternative Hiring Policy Influences Teachers’ Career Decisions, organized by the Faculty of Education, was held in E33 Tin Ka Ping Lecture Hall, 19 January 2018. Mr. Wei LIAO was invited to be the speaker. Mr. Liao is currently a PhD candidate at Michigan State University’s College of Education holding double degrees in Educational Policy and Teacher Education. He is an educator specializing in teacher development.

Mr. Wei LIAO was invited to be the speaker

Mr. Liao’s study aims to understand the reportedly high retention rates of teachers recruited through Special Teaching Position (STP). He conducted a longitudinal study to examine how five STP teachers make career decisions in their sociocultural contexts for 12 years. As shown by the data, the current recruitment policy is conducive to guiding qualified teachers to schools in less developed areas. Also, the findings demonstrate how a new phenomenon has emerged, which he described as “weekday rural teachers, weekend urban spouses and parents.” Two factors contribute to this phenomenon: (1) improvement of transportation conditions, and (2) skip-generation parenting. Furthermore, Mr. Liao used both qualitative and quantitative methods to explore the outcomes and impact of teacher policy reform in mainland China.
On 23 January 2018, a delegation from Fudan University and East China Normal University visited the Faculty of Education, University of Macau. The administrative staff of FED prepared a variety of activities, including FED Tour and lecture on education.

Mr. Chi Hang LEI, Administrative staff of FED, showed the delegates around the FED Building as well as FED facilities, including the Visual Art Room, Piano Classroom, Music Practice Room, Science Laboratory, etc.

Prof. Biying HU delivered a talk on A Longitudinal Study on Teacher-Child Interactions Quality in Chinese Preschool Classrooms and Child Outcomes: Evidence from Guangdong Province. Prof. Hu introduced her research process and results, which aroused the students’ interest and inspired them to explore further.
Seminar on “Models and Modeling Processes in Science Education”, was held at E33-G021, on 7 February 2018. Prof. Mei-Hung CHIU from the Graduate Institute of Science Education (GISE) of the National Taiwan Normal University was invited to be the speaker. Prof. Chiu obtained her Ed. M. and Ed. D. from Harvard University. Her research involves the construction and reconstruction of scientific concepts, cognition of the nature of the model, modeling teaching and science curriculum design. She has published articles about science curriculum, mental models of scientific phenomenon and modeling-based instruction in international well-known journals.

In this talk, Prof. Chiu presented a series of studies on students’ understanding of nature of models and modeling-based instruction sponsored by the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology. In addition to these studies, she presented samples on the use of technology, such as Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality (AR/VR), as scaffolds in facilitating students’ visualization of abstract and complex scientific concepts.

Prof. Chiu said that it is necessary to systematically explore the modeling ability. Therefore, teachers should integrate modeling awareness into basic science curricula and explore modeling activities to accelerate students to recognize the scientific model and the modeling process as soon as possible. In this way, we can make modeling a habit of thinking and acting, and then take a step further on the goal of enhancing scientific literacy.
2018 CTLE Spring Workshop “Panel Presentation on Rain Classroom” with FED Staff Prof. Kan Kan CHAN, Prof. Si Man LEI, Prof. Zihao LI & Dr. Soi Po WONG

2018 CTLE Spring Workshop “Panel Presentation on Rain Classroom”, organized by The Centre for Teaching and Learning Enhancement (CTLE), was held at E3-1032 on 7 February 2018. Prof. Kan Kan CHAN, Prof. Si Man LEI, Prof. Zihao LI & Dr. Soi Po WONG, from the Faculty of Education, were invited to be the speakers. This workshop was open to all UM members and targeted to the faculty staff who may be interested in exploring blended learning, flipped classroom and development of MOOCs.

This workshop helped us understand and feel the power of modern science and technology infused in the field of education and teaching. “Rain Classroom” establishes a bridge between teachers and students throughout the teaching and learning process. It is a powerful and user-friendly plug-in program developed by Tsinghua University in April 2016. In less than 2 years, it is used by over 2 million users in 130,000 active classes. Prof. Chan, Prof. Lei, Prof. Li and Dr. Wong from the FED demonstrated basic features of “Rain Classroom” including syncing WeChat with PPT, using smartphone as a teaching/learning tool, generating feedback instantly, creating quiz, building surveys, and collecting data for purpose of analyzing learning.