Progress Report

WEEK 6 - 14/03 - 1/04

Project aim

"Enhance students' engagement in the online learning environment"

About us!

What are your hobbies?

Siobhan: too many! learning to sew, music

Mai: Playing piano

Mai:
ngucy044@mymail.unisa.edu.au

Siobhan:
ohasc001@mymail.unisa.edu.au

WHAT IS OT ANYWAY?

Occupational therapy is an allied health profession aimed at supporting the participation of people and communities in everyday activities

University of South Australia

open access COLLEGE

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT @ OAC

Hi everyone! It's Mai and Siobhan again with another update! We're winding up week 6 and have been seeking feedback on 5 potential strategies.

If you haven't already, check the bulletin or the school website to see a summary of our findings!

We'll be holding student discussion groups into next week. So if you want to be involved, please email us!

What we did this week:

- Created a survey for OAC staff who participated in the needs analysis to give feedback and preference potential strategy ideas.
- Held a discussion group with students to gain thoughts and feedback on potential strategies. A big thank you to the students for all your insight!

This week's achievements

- Gained feedback on different ideas and strategies
- Organised a focus group with students

What comes next?

- Select a strategy
- Develop the chosen strategy in collaboration with the OAC community

Activities	Outcomes	Implications
Created a staff survey to gain feedback, preferences and suggestions for action plan strategies.	The survey has received 6 responses so far. Overall, preferences have been mixed Gained specific feedback on each strategy	This provides an easily accessible means for staff to participate and have input in the direction of the project. Mixed preferences indicate that there are multiple areas which could be addressed to meet the needs identified. These may form the basic of recommendations for the school following handover.
Continued examining the comparative need by researching other online schools across Australia and NZ	Gained a greater understanding of strategies used at other online schools. Facilitators have a greater understanding of established knowledge and practices to then build upon.	Contributes to a more comprehensive and streamlined approach. Support cross-school information sharing and reduce redundancy .
Had a meeting with our agency supervisor	Gained feedback on the decision making process Developed a more robust decision making framework	Agency feedback provides insight into what is feasible within their resources, and where the OT perspective is most needed. In addition to community preferences, it is critical to factor in what is feasible within school and project resources, what strategies could be carried out by OAC staff at a later date, and what strategies require an OT lens.
Hosted a discussion group with students – seeking feedback on potential strategies	3 high school students attended	Maximising community member involvement and input is a critical aspect of the projects' approach.

	Gained incredibly valuable feedback on strategy ideas Students expressed interest in attending another discussion group to refine the chosen strategy	
Met with our university supervisor	Gained feedback on the direction of our project Developed a more robust process to select the most appropriate strategy for our action plan	Feedback from our supervisor provided us with clear direction on our action plan strategy In addition to community and agency preferences, it is critical to factor in what is feasible within the remainder of the project, what could be done to the best standard to provide the most benefit, and what will provide lasting benefit.
Continued distributing the findings poster.	Staff, students and home supervisors who expressed interest have been emailed a copy of the findings poster. This has also been published to the bulletin and sent to a Department for Education stakeholder. We have received positive feedback from teachers, home supervisors, and the DfE stakeholder.	Dissemination is a critical, ongoing step in the project. The poster ensures stakeholders can easily access the findings - to inform and empower their decision making (on the direction of the action plan.) This also promotes accountability, transparency, and an opportunity for stakeholders to give feedback.

What went well:

The feedback we received on our dissemination poster indicates that the needs were well-captured. Additionally, the survey responses help us understand more about staff's preferences and ideas about each strategy.

The discussion group with students was a highlight of the week. We discussed potential strategies that have come out of the needs analysis, and pros and cons of each. Every student interacted and engaged very well within the session, and we were able to build rapport well. Each student expressed that they would like to come back in the future for another focus group session, which demonstrates that the session was interesting and engaging.

Challenges and obstacles:

So far, responses to the staff survey (and potential strategies) have been incredibly mixed. Additionally, there have been limited opportunities to speak with the students' directly and gain their input. Without a consensus on the direction of the project, we've been discussing and weighing how a strategy should be chosen.

Contingency Plans:

- Discussion groups could be run on an alternate, asynchronous platform such as google classroom if a suitable time cant be selected.