Curriculum Design Pattern

Global Learning by Design

Name of pattern	**Not So Random Groups**
Quick look	Not So Random Groups allocates students to groups according to the Program they come from. The goal is to have groups which are representative of a wide variety of programs.
Rationale	This activity is designed to ensure that students are exposed to a diverse range of perspectives, backgrounds and students in group work situations to aid more effective and holistic peer to peer learning.
Learners/Context	Suitable for common core courses where learners are from a diverse range of programs.
Related patterns	IF-AT Immediate Feedback Assessment Technique.
Related category	Collaboration, team work, project based learning.
Alignment	This activity helps ensure diversity in the learning experience.
Instructions/Process	**Prior to class:** 1. The teacher should post on Blackboard some supporting resources for students to provide guidance on how to effectively collaborate as a group (see Resources/Technology).

2. Decide on the size of the groups required for the task.

3. Instruct students to select their own group members with the following requirements:

   a. Groups must be made up of students from different Program backgrounds, i.e. no more than one student from a particular program included in the group.

   b. Groups should consist of no more than the group size limit set.

4. Develop a contingency plan in case group membership changes during the course of the task.

Conditions

Contingency plans in place if group changes.

Resources/Technology

Student resources:

— The RMIT Learning Lab's Working in Teams Tutorial
http://emedia.rmit.edu.au/workinginteams/welcome

Teacher resources:

— Implementing group work in the classroom:
(https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/alternatives-lecturing/group-work/implementing-group-work-classroom)

— 'How to make group work collaborative in online courses: four strategies':
(https://onlinelearninginsights.wordpress.com/2014/08/14/how-to-make-group-work-collaborative-in-online-courses-four-strategies/)