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Siyaphumelela FYE Workstream Webinar: Response to the Student Journey 2022

Re-envisioning Student Success, Engagement and Transitions at UKZN: The FYE Programme

Prof Ruth Hoskins and Dr Sharmla Rama on behalf of the UKZN FYE Task Team

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Outline of the presentation

- **Introduction & Background**
  - UKZN Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategic Plan
- **Re-envisioning Student Success, Engagement, and Transition**
  - Key ideas embedded in the re-envisioning of the FYE Programme
- **FYE Programme Curriculum**
  - What is different? Onboarding and Orientation
  - Engagement Strategy
  - The FYE Curriculum: The Four Units
  - Mode of Delivery
  - Facilitation and Support – Implementation
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**
- **Challenges**
- **Success and Opportunities**
- **Questions and Comments – please also type in chat**

Introduction and Background

UKZN VISION, MISSION, & VALUES

VISION: To be the Premier University of African Scholarship.

MISSION: A truly South African University of Choice that is academically excellent, innovative in research, entrepreneurial, and critically engaged with society

VALUES: UKZN aims to establish a value-driven organisational culture that empowers the Institution and its people to achieve institutional goals

The guiding values are **Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Client Orientation, Honesty, and Trust – represented as R.E.A.C.H.T** – all staff, academics and students

- **Promote student access, diversity, and success**
- **Offer progressive and responsive curricula**
- **Offer an outstanding academic experience**
- **Pursue excellence and creativity in teaching and learning**

- To achieve a diverse socio-economic student body
  - Percentage of admitted 1st year students from quintile 1-3 schools (70 to 80%)
- To enhance student success with quality teaching and learning
  - Student graduation rates

Context and Values underpinning the re-envisioning of the FYE
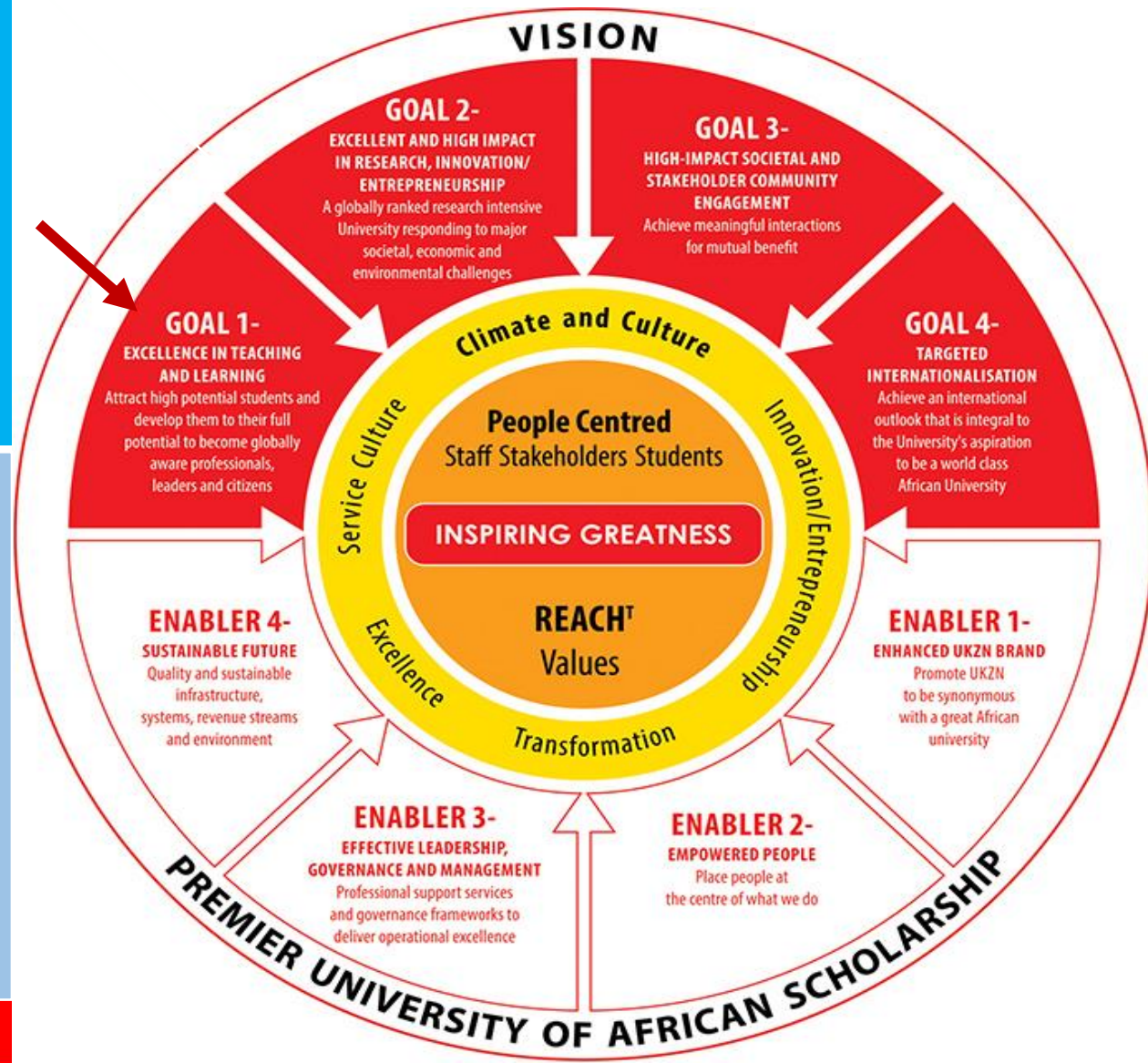
- Post – 1994 - Accessible, inclusive and social justice – redress colonial and apartheid inequalities
  - Education for Sustainable Development & Sustainable Development Goals
- CHE and DoHET policies guiding HEI
- #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall
- COVID-19 – leave no student behind –UKZN Motto
- UKZN – curriculum and digital transformation

Re-envisioning Student Success, Engagement & Transition

The FYE Programme – pre COVID 19

We have *separate* programmes by four Colleges and their School with varied *content* and *delivery* offered

No common FYE Programme

VARIED STUDENT EXPERIENCE

9

Key ideas embedded in the re-envisioning

- Four teams from across all colleges
- Best practices from within UKZN
- Benchmarked FYE - nationally & internationally
- Two Research Assistants - benchmarking
- Peer-review of the curriculum content

UKZN TASK TEAM

UCDP Funding

Vice Chancellor's Office - Funding

Heads of TL/AMS in each College

SSS Managers – Counsellors

AMS Coordinators

UTLO TL Director

UTLO Data Analytics Researcher

4 CDTLs

UTEL

ICS

QPA
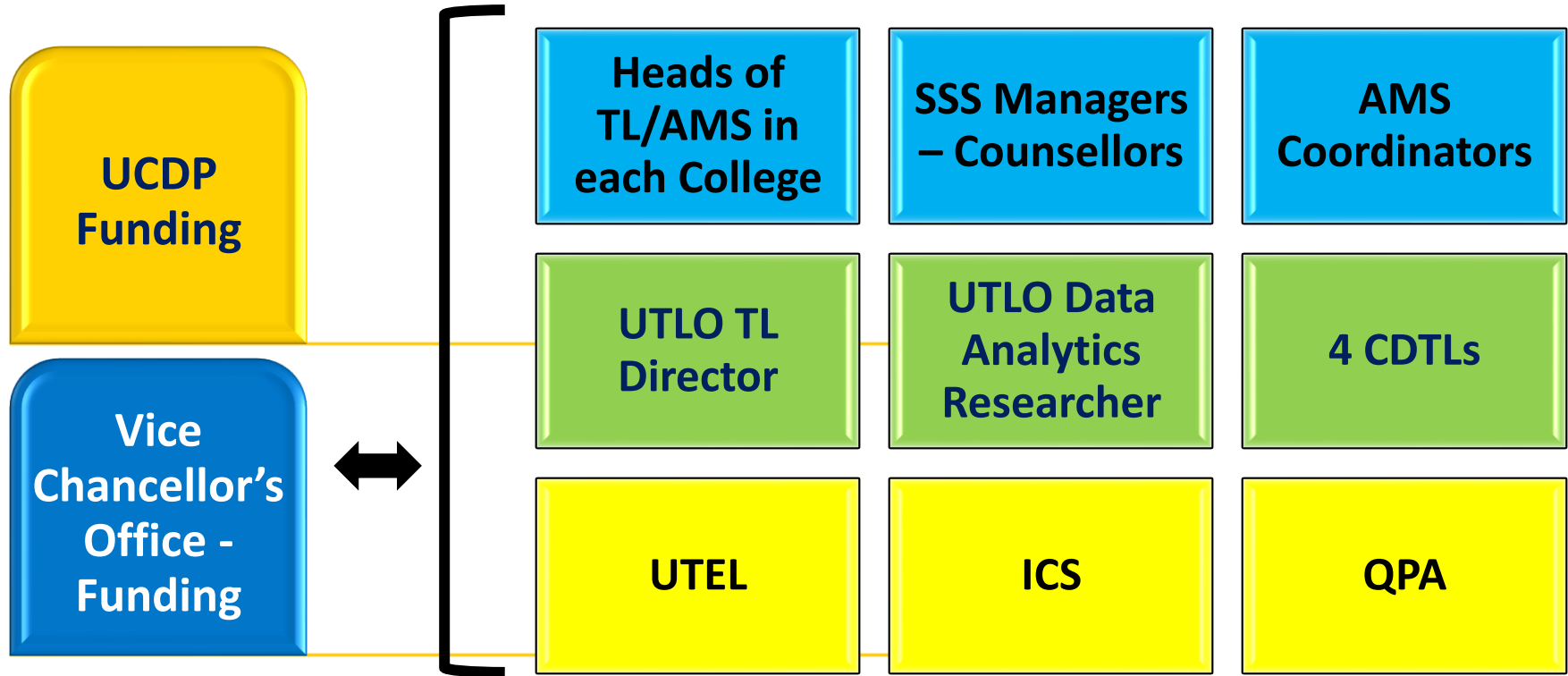
FTENs/FY – UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT TARGETS 2022/ 2023

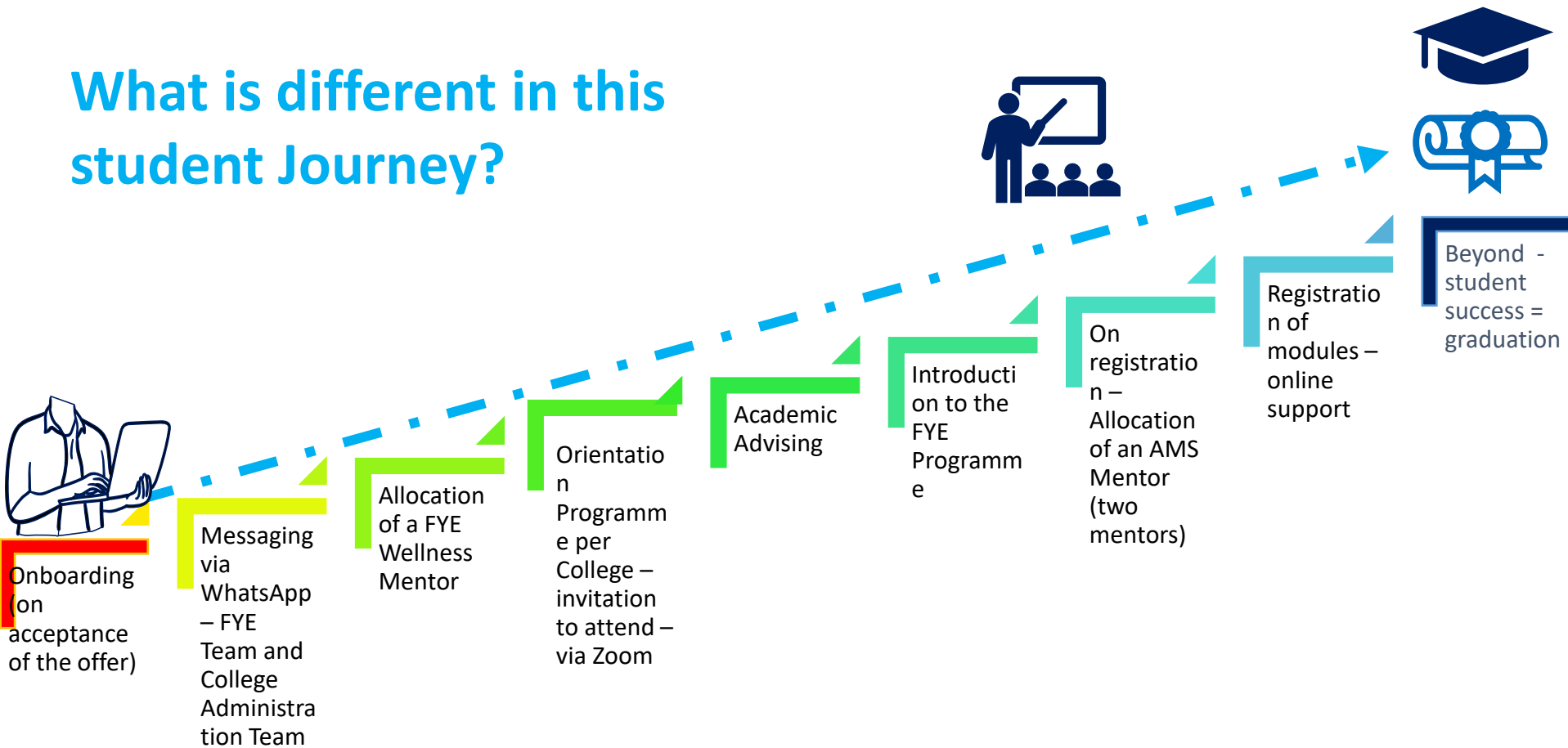| College	2022	2023	2022
	Total Planned Intake		Actual
College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science	2480	2415	2067
College of Health Sciences	924	1015	940
College of Humanities	5559	5208	6637
College of Law and Management Studies	1619	1603	1452
TOTAL	**10582**	**10241**	11097
Includes: First Time Entry Students (FTENS)/ First Years + Transfers			

FYE Programme Curriculum Content and Pedagogical Approach and Practice

What is different in this student Journey?

Onboarding (on acceptance of the offer)

Messaging via WhatsApp – FYE Team and College Administration Team

Allocation of a FYE Wellness Mentor

Orientation Programme per College – invitation to attend – via Zoom

Academic Advising

Introduction to the FYE Programme

On registration – Allocation of an AMS Mentor (two mentors)

Registration of modules – online support

Beyond - student success = graduation

Engagement strategy
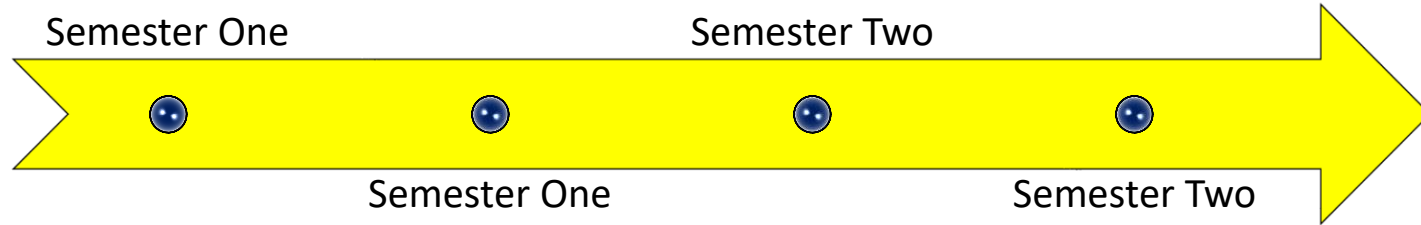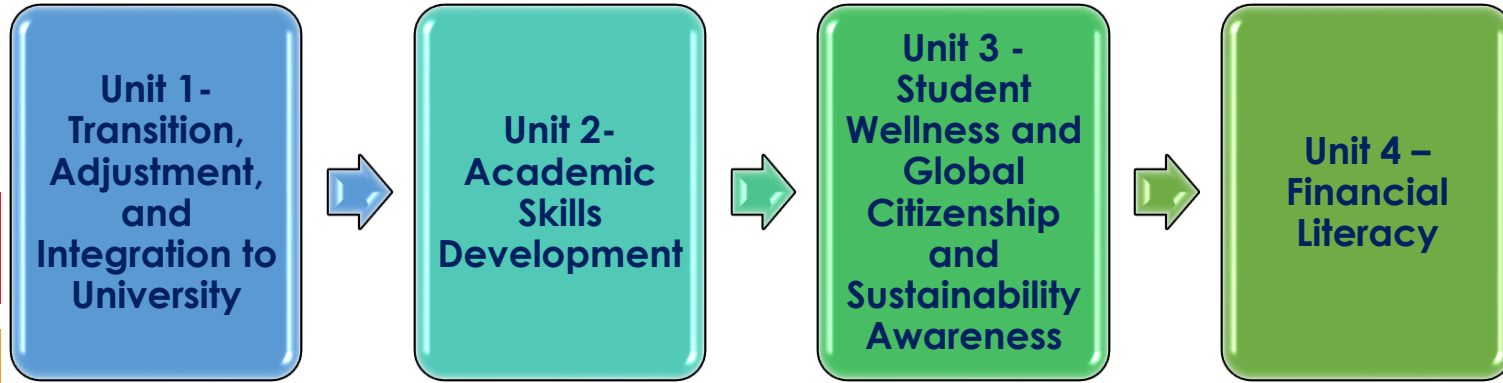
- Early engagement – at time of accepting the offer

- College Academic Services

  - Welcome package

- Early allocation of Wellness Mentor

- Welcome and introduction

- Adoption of various tools engage students – SMS and social media platforms

- FYE mentorship programme

- Data provision for one month – on acceptance of the offer
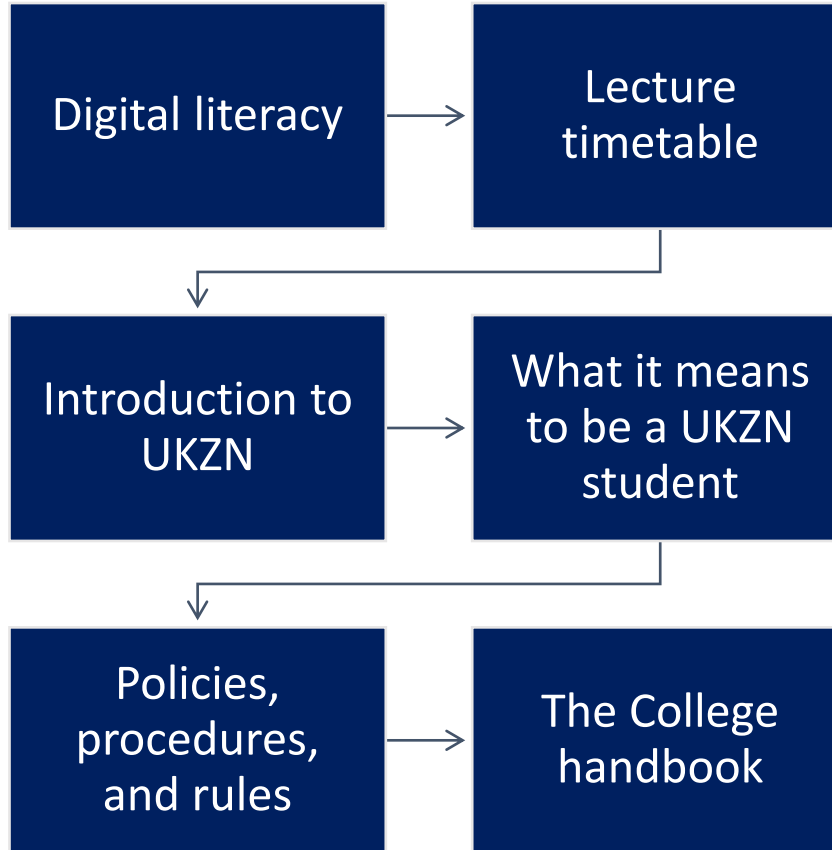
Learning Units: FYE Programme

Unit 1- Transition, Adjustment, and Integration to University

Unit 2- Academic Skills Development

Unit 3 - Student Wellness and Global Citizenship and Sustainability Awareness

Unit 4 – Financial Literacy

Semester One

Semester Two

Semester One

Semester Two

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Log in ▾

Work in progress... please watch this space!

═══════ Available courses ═══════

Miscellaneous
First Year Experience

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Unit 1 - Transition, Adjustment, and Integration to University


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Digital literacy  →  Lecture timetable
        ↓
Introduction to UKZN  →  What it means to be a UKZN student
        ↓
Policies, procedures, and rules  →  The College handbook
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Unit 2 –Academic Skills Development

Goal setting

Learning styles

Time Management

Effective note taking

Study skills

Academic writing

Plagiarism

Unit 3-Student Wellness and Global Citizenship and Sustainability Awareness

Personal & Professional Development

- Transition, adjustment and integration to university life
- Mental health and wellness
- Career development and exploration
- Self-awareness and self-management
- Effective interpersonal communication
- Stress management and building resilience
- Appreciating diversity
- Healthy relationships
- Substance use and abuse
- Bullying

Global citizenship and sustainability awareness

- Civic responsibility awareness
- Cultural competencies
- The environment and sustainability awareness
- Values for service and community engagement

Unit 4- Financial Literacy

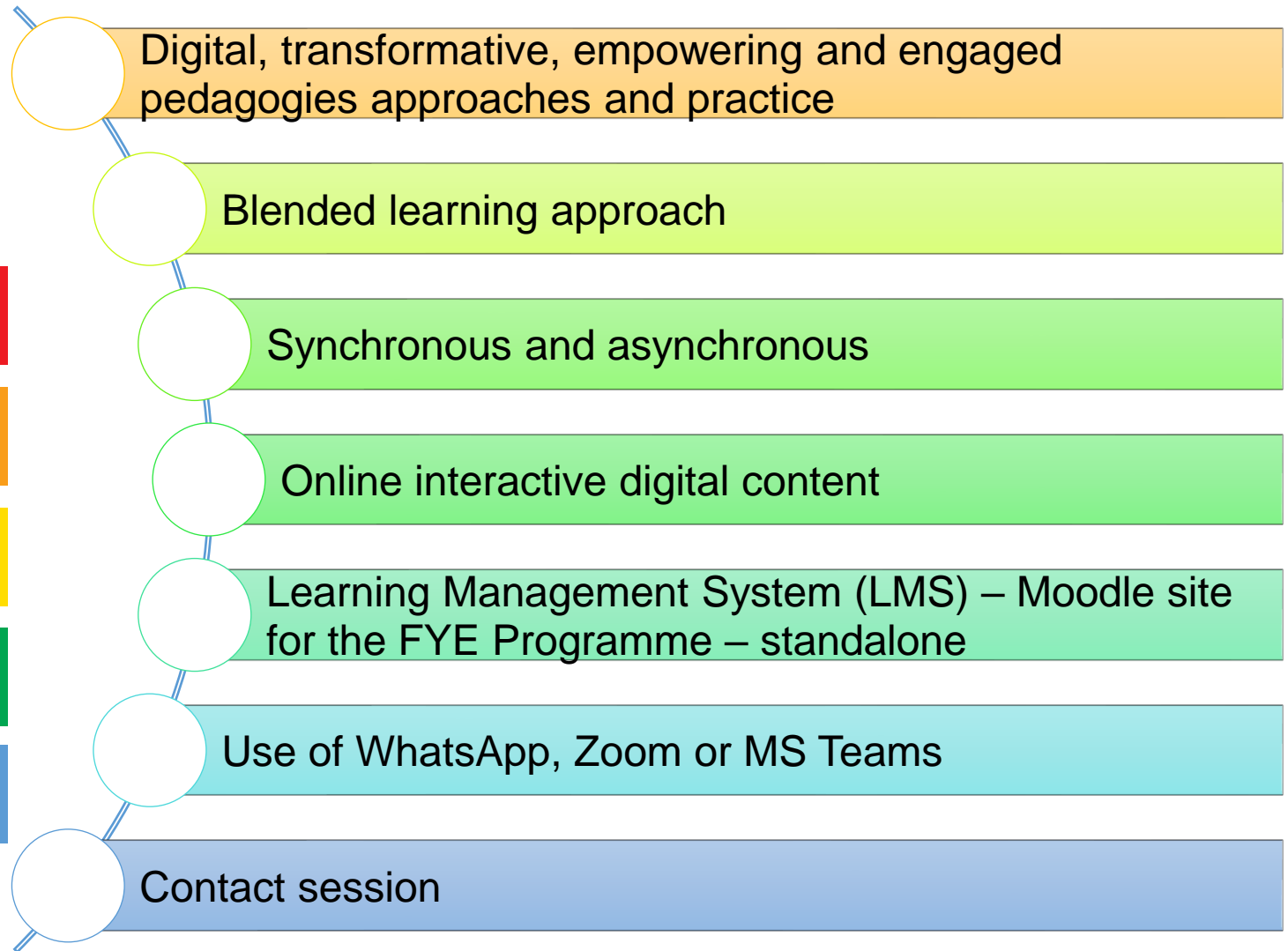| Financial Literacy	Financial Attitudes and Behaviour
Expenditure and credit	Money management
Savings and investment	Financial decision making
Income and budgeting	Financial education

Mode of Delivery

Digital, transformative, empowering and engaged pedagogies approaches and practice

Blended learning approach

Synchronous and asynchronous

Online interactive digital content

Learning Management System (LMS) – Moodle site for the FYE Programme – standalone

Use of WhatsApp, Zoom or MS Teams

Contact session

Facilitation of the FYE Programme

- Office of the Dean of Teaching and Learning
- Heads of AMS/Teaching and Learning/Students Success
- Managers of Student Support Services
  - Student Councilors
- FYE Coordinators
- FYE Wellness Mentors
- FYE Administrators

FYE Programme Implementation

- Academic Development Officers (ADOs)
- AMS Coordinators and Peer Mentors
- College Administration
- Schools: Academics and Support Staff
- ICS – ICT support
  - Data allocation
  - Geographical mapping (connectivity)
  - Host and administer FYE Moodle LMS

Monitoring and Evaluation

Student evaluation – periodic/ across student journey

Peer mentor evaluation
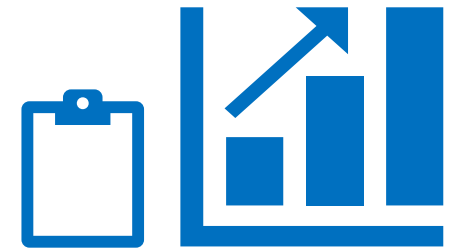
Mentorship programmes

Academics evaluation of content

Data analytics

Student use and access

Student participation rates

Student completion rates

Who has not accessed the site

Key Challenges

Student

- Access to device
- Data connectivity – low participation on some of the units – unit 2 academic literacy (not mandatory/ certificate)
- Digital literacy [- registration on the LMS, use of the LMS for assessment submissions and saving of work
- Time management – co-curricular vs main curriculum

Peer mentors

- Inadequate facilitation
- Lack active engagement with mentees after orientation

Success and Opportunities

Comprehensive standard programme for all colleges

Student experience consistent

Pilot 200 students however, we had over 10,000 participate at varying levels

New curriculum content – Social justice unit – GBV 2023

Some units/ sections of Units 3 and 4 – offered in semester one

Decrease no of student queries and change of curriculums from FTENs

Improved student engagement

Enhanced student success rate

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Thank you,

We welcome questions and comments

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