The Narrative-Based Approach

How narrative-based approaches foster certainty and communication.
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As Students, as Partners

• We’ve been students, leaders and partners.
• Culminating in 15 years experience.
• Student partners are employed students, acting as leaders and managers.
  1. Professional staff;
  2. Engagement programme;
  3. Student team;
  4. Student partners leading student teams.
Modern Student Partnership Models

- Partners lead student teams.
- Partnership between professional staff and student.
- Programmes follow similar forms and functions.
  - Engage;
  - Support;
  - Connect.
• Easily adapted, easily adaptable.
• Student lifestyle.
• Flexible goals, flexible wins.
Visibility

- Selects the “right” kind of people.
- Maximizes program’s reach.
- Easily implemented into university.
Flexibility & Visibility

It just doesn’t work.

- Lack of certainty.
- Ad hoc procedures.
- Selection bias.
- Weak connection.
Certainty & Communication

New paradigm, same objectives.
Certainty over Flexibility

**Flexibility**
- Adaptable.
- Student-oriented.
- Scalable.

**Certainty**
- Robust.
- Professionally-minded.
- Communicable.
Certainty is Efficacy

- Certainty of objective.
- Certainty of role.
- Certainty of expectations.
Communication over Visibility

**Visibility**
- Favors confident behaviour.
- Emphasizes student reach.
- Synchronizes with semester structure.

**Communication**
- Favors skillful communication.
- Emphasizes institutional understanding.
- Synchronizes with your structure.
Communication is Effectiveness

- Communicate to the person.
- Communicate to the institution.
- Communicate appropriate to your needs.
What About the Title?

How to best implement the new paradigm?

- "Narrative-based Approach"
- Certainty > Flexibility.
- Communication > Visibility.
Narrative-Based Approach

- Formulating years/semesters into stories.
- Multi-act structures.
- Key events, key characters.
- Certainty in FORM.
- Communication in FUNCTION.
Certainty in Form

"Discipline equals freedom"¹

- Narrative gives structure.
- Structure gives certainty.
- Structuring your programme into Acts inherently seeks certainty.
- Partnerships construct certain expectations, preparations and objectives.
Communication in Function

“Most [communication] is time-consuming, negative, irrelevant to your goals, and outside of your influence.”

• Certain narratives create clear expectations.
• Certain expectations allow appropriate engagement.
• Communication matches Act’s form and objectives.
• Partnerships now have a script ensuring purposeful communication.
The Gold Standard

ORIENTATION
- **CERTAIN**: one week.
- **COMMUNICATE**: expectations.

MID SEMESTER BREAK
- **CERTAIN**: two weeks.
- **COMMUNICATE**: resourcing.

EXAM BREAK
- **CERTAIN**: three weeks.
- **COMMUNICATE**: next narrative.
Purge the System!
Narrative-Based Approach

- Find your partner.
- Establish clear Acts.
- Certainty in form.
- Communication in function.
- Finish the year: purge.
The Narrative-Based Approach