



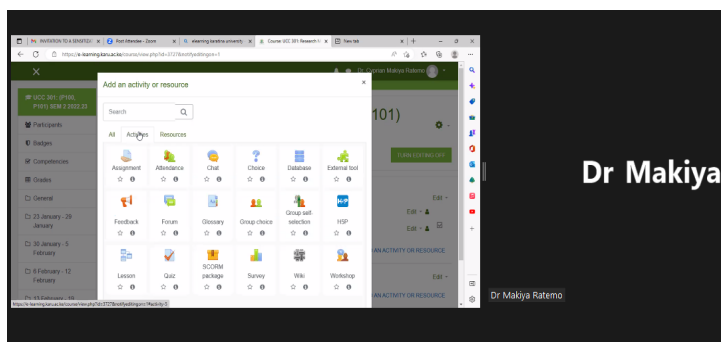
Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

KARATINA UNIVERSITY

Weekly Dispatch 1 ,2023

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th January, 2023

BROAD-BASED APPROACH IDEAL FOR GENERATION OF CLASS ATTENDANCE IN BLENDED MODE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING



The Director, ICT, Dr. Cyprian Makiya Ratemo taking participants through the LMS platform

During the 2nd Surveillance Audit under the ISO 9001: 2015 Standards by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) held on Wednesday, 30th November and Thursday, 1st December 2022, a number of non-conformities were found and recommendations for corrective action were made.

One of these non-conformities was the lack of evidence that the submission of class attendance registers was done before the commencement of examinations. The root cause of the non-conformity was the lack of a work plan, maintained at the departmental level, detailing the exact time when analysed class attendance registers are to be submitted to Heads of Departments each semester.

As a corrective measure, the External Auditor, Mr. Isaac Mureithi, recommended that the Directorate of Quality Assurance and ISO, in collaboration with the Directorate of ODeL, conducts training on how to navigate the Learning Management System (LMS) platform to generate class attendance registers. Additionally, the training was to discuss how to formulate a standard way of analysing class attendance. All the affected departments are, then, expected to provide evidence of

analysis of class attendance in their annual work plan and the timelines for undertaking analysis of class attendance as per the current academic procedure.

The two Directorates, on Tuesday, 24th January 2023, mounted a sensitization session for academic members of staff on how to generate class attendance registers. Chaired by Prof. Michael Lokuruka, the Director, Research, Innovation and Extension, on behalf of the Director, Quality Assurance and ISO, Prof. Mugo Mware, the interactive session brought to the fore the obligation of every member of the teaching staff to provide evidence of class attendance of students, especially in the virtual space. According to Procedure 3 in the Academic Procedure Manual, an analysis of class attendance is required to be submitted to the Heads of Department two weeks before the start of examinations.

The Director, ICT, Dr. Cyprian Makiya Ratemo, on behalf of the Acting Director, ODeL, Dr. Joan Wakasa Murumba, took participants through the LMS interface and its affordances. He stated that whilst the LMS mode is unique, it presents a number of challenges as to the conduct of teaching and learning. It is, nevertheless, possible to maximally use the platform to achieve the required objectives. One of the challenges is the generation of class attendance registers in the blended mode of instruction compared to the physical classroom setting.

In as much as the responsibility to attend online classes and perform the tasks required solely lies with the students, lecturers were advised to be keen to monitor their students' class attendance patterns. Class attendance of students, he stated, leaves digital footprints on the LMS platform which can help generate the registers.

'The transition from physical to the virtual system of learning has presented the challenge of students being unavailable to undertake online tasks given by lecturers. Online learning, unlike the traditional classroom delivery of content, has affected the participation of students. However, this can be mitigated by taking a broad-based approach, as opposed to handling class attendance in isolation, to generate an account of their participation.'

Dr. Makiya articulated the need for lecturers to employ a task-based approach where they teach and give assignments after every session. Here, the students will be required to submit these assignments via the LMS platform. These assignments will help in generating evidence of learners' involvement in every session. He also cited the need to forge a tripartite relationship where learners interact with the content, lecturers and with each other. *'It is possible to assess the participation of students by how they interact with content posted on the LMS. These may be resources available in form of short videos, audio recordings, PowerPoint presentations and PDF notes among others. The interaction of students with these resources may help determine their online participation. This can, then, find its way in the generation of class attendance registers'*, he stated.

The Director gave a demonstration on how to track the activity of students in order to determine whether their presence online was meaningful or not. This works in such a way that a lecturer is able to automatically see when a student logged in, how long he/she stayed online and when he/she was last seen online. Another way is the tracking of the discussion forums on the platform which is also a tool for teaching but can also constitute student participation. The overall goal, he stated, is to promote more learning and interaction, encourage students to record higher attendances and help the lecturer generate his/her register.

MARKING INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

Karatina University hosted a team from Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) on Thursday, 26th January, 2023. The team was led by the Regional Manager, Nyeri region; Mr. John Geoffrey. Other facilitators from KRA Nyeri Branch included: Caroline Nyangechi and Lilian Kamau. Leading Karatina University team was Prof. Kenneth Wanjau who is the Director, Career Services and University- Industry Linkage. Other participants from the University included the Tax Club Patron; Dr. Flora Runji and one hundred and twenty (120) student members drawn from the Tax Club.



Mr. John Geoffrey, KRA Regional Manager, Nyeri County giving his remarks

The purpose of the visit by KRA team was to sensitize students during the International Customs Day, observed on this date. Some of the key points of discussion included: definitions and roles of a customs officer, strategies to mitigate security threats on imports, history of customs and career path in customs. The facilitators also reported that KRA has a training School; Kenya School of Revenue Authority (KESRA) which is the main trainer of customs officials. During the sensitization, participants appreciated the role of KRA in ensuring threats are mitigated and that through customs tax, the country is able to generate sufficient revenue.



From the left: Tax Club Chairperson, Patron, KRA Nyeri Regional Manager and one of the facilitators



From the left, KRA facilitator, Director, Career Services and University-Industry Linkage and a

KARATINA UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATES IN KUSA CENTRAL LEAGUE GAMES



Basketball team

Over the weekend, the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) Central League 2B Games were held at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT). The games played were Hockey (Men), Basketball (Women), Badminton (Women) and Karate. These were the final games of the season for the said disciplines.



Karate team

Karatina University Basketball (Women) team finished at Position 3. The Karate team also scooped Position 3 overall but won Gold in the Kumite (Men) and Silver (Women). The Badminton (Women) team finished at Position 6 and the Hockey (Men) team at Position 7.



Hockey team

The KUSA Central League Games has eleven (11) participating Universities.

KARUSCO MEMBERS EDUCATION DAY



KARUSCO SACCO Society Ltd, on Thursday 26th January 2023, marked the *Members Education Day*. This was an opportunity for members to be taken through Personal Financial Management, Cooperative Societies Act, Sacco Rules and Regulations, KARUSCO Sacco by-laws and Management Policies with emphasis on Election Policy and the role of a Strategic Plan in the context of SACCO growth.