PASS in GEF: Implementation of Peer Learning in General Education

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What is GEF?
- General Education Foundation Programme
  - Two common core courses required for all undergraduates
- In Dialogue with Humanity
  - Reflecting on good life and ideal society
- In Dialogue with Nature
  - Exploring the understanding of nature
- Focusing on reading classics
  - The Analects, Qur'an, The Social Contract, Republic, The Principia, On the Origin of Species...

Mode of Study in a Week
- Classics
  - Close reading on their own
- Tutorial discussion
  - Participating in group discussion
- PASS
  - Peer Assisted Study Sessions
  - A voluntary academic assistance programme that utilizes peer-led group learning to help students succeed

Implementation of PASS (2016-17)
- 23 study groups with 186 sessions in Term 1
- 20 study groups with 199 sessions in Term 2

PASS Participants
- x338 in Term 1
- x426 in Term 2
- Participating in setting the agenda of each PASS session
- Reinforcing understanding of the texts by close reading
- Consolidating key concepts through peer-led discussion

PASS Supervisors x5
- Completed the accredited PASS Supervisor Training
- Reviewing the year plan and monitoring the progress of PASS
- Recruiting, training and supervising the PASS Leaders
- Liaising with course teachers

PASS Leaders x17
- Excelling at the same course
- Completed the accredited PASS Leader Training
- Serving as facilitators for group learning
- Attending lectures and regular meetings, reviewing course materials and preparing for each PASS session

PASS Administrator x1
- Scheduling PASS sessions
- Coordinating recruitment and training
- Preparing promotion materials
- Handling payments and enquiries

PASS Helps Students (Focus Group Study in 2016-17 Term 1)
- Improve understanding of the classics
  - "We could understand the meaning of the sentences but not the whole idea when reading on our own. In PASS, we could clarify our understanding."
- Identify and connect major ideas
  - "The PASS Leader asked us to read and discuss particular paragraphs that helped us to locate the main ideas in the text."
  - "PASS helped me grasp the gist of each text and then I could understand how the other parts of the text related to it."
- Think from different perspectives
  - "The PASS Leader posed guiding questions for us to discuss. Then we could learn from other participants their views on the texts from different perspectives."
- Foster confidence in tutorial discussion
  - "Similar to tutorials, the setting of PASS is small group discussion. Becoming more at ease to this form of learning, I am more confident in expressing my opinions in class."

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