Communities of practice
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Communities of Practice (CoPs) provide an opportunity for university staff to engage in sustained conversations around learning and teaching, focused on the members’ field of practice, for example - first year teaching, research supervision and head of department.

As educators old and new we are constantly learning to ‘do’ things the USQ way (e.g. new skills, competency with different systems) as well as ‘be’ a USQ academic (e.g. what does it mean to be an educator in the USQ context?). CoPs are based on social learning theory, the idea that as social beings we develop our identities and learn best with others.

The three elements of CoPs:
1. developing a community
2. sharing practice
3. building domain knowledge, provide an ideal context for learning with colleagues.

CoPs are groups of people who share a passion for something that they know how to do and who interact regularly to learn how to do it better. CoPs provide an opportunity to create a vibrant learning community around an area of common interest or practice, to share and develop practice and build personal and professional knowledge, resources and expertise.

Web links
USQ Communities of practice home page http://www.usq.edu.au/cops
ALTC Teaching Fellowship http://www.usq.edu.au/cops/resources/altcfellowship
ALTC Teaching Fellowship resources designed to assist CoP leaders to facilitate their CoP through various phases and key issues http://www.usq.edu.au/cops/resources/altcfellowship/facilitator-resources

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