

#25 — Virtual Office Hours

One quiet strength of Microsoft Teams doesn't get talked about much:

A meeting room doesn't have to be closed.

It can be open — more like a professor's office with the door propped wide than a strict calendar appointment.

That small shift changes the feeling from

“Join at exactly 2:00 or you missed it” to something much more human:
“I'm here if you need me.”

In higher education especially, that matters.

Students don't always need a formal appointment.

Colleagues don't always need a scheduled call.

Sometimes they just need a place to drop in, ask a quick question, and move on.

And Teams makes this simple.

Quick setup:

- Create a recurring meeting in Teams
- Give it a welcoming name (Open Office Hours, Drop-In Help, etc.)
- Share the join link with the right audience
- Start the meeting and stay available — people can come and go freely

No complex configuration.

Just a standing doorway in a digital hallway.

Both private and channel-based meetings work here.

The real difference is visibility, not experience.

And that's the bigger idea:

Technology is often built around control.

Open meetings lean toward presence.

They recreate something higher ed has always valued —

the simple ability to stop by.

Sometimes that small bit of digital hospitality

is what finally makes the technology feel human.

#AllSuttonedUp