

Title of Session: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning

Moderator: Roger Goodson

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Room: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning Group

DavidW: Roger, at the Math Forum we were part of an interesting grant trying to connect teaching to research in education (especially with all the new technology)

DavidW: o O ("Bridging Research and Practice")

SherylM: been meaning to come, but really worked to get here today :D

DavidW: Good work, Sheryl

RogerMG: Wow Sheryl ... you've been at this edbiz almost as long as I have. What are your thoughts on faculty resistance to tech?

SherylM: smiles

SherylM: I don't understand them at all; My motto is adapt or die. lol

SherylM: Just kidding

DavidW: Sheryl adheres strictly to a Darwinian view of the Universe

SherylM: I have worked with a lot of hesitant teachers...not just hesitant about tech

SherylM: mainly, I think, teachers become recalcitrant when they don't feel safe

RogerMG: What I wanted to do tonight was to continue on what we started in the last session. George also has a discussion response I would like you to read. You will find it in Featured Items under 'Cultural Lag.'

RogerMG: I wish Jeff had come to this one, because this is where we can really get in NCLB.

DavidW: smiles

DavidW: I think it's safe to say Jeff is anti-NCLB

RogerMG: I tend to distrust anything devised by politicians for organizations they know very little about . . .but ed. is like baseball . . .everyone thinks they know how it 'should' be played.

SherylM: I am all for standards based curriculum, but not for washing the dishes after they have been through the dishwasher once

SherylM: Yes,

SherylM: IOW, too much overkill and standing in place with the curricula development and connection to teachers and students

RogerMG: George, I really like what you wrote in that response to Cultural Lag. Have you had other thoughts related to it?

GeorgeK: Only that what I wrote should be so obvious I can't believe others haven't brought this up again and again.

SherylM nods

SherylM: I think the culture lag may be related to the 5 year plan of reinventing the wheel.

RogerMG: Maybe they see it as a dilemma they don't know how to get out of . . .so they either ignore it, or avoid talking (and thinking) about it . . .if one focuses on the discrepancies too much one might go postal.

GeorgeK: square wheels.

SherylM nods

SherylM: that is why they have to be reinvented; lol

GeorgeK: if we reinvent, how many of the items I point out could we realistically address?

RogerMG: A teacher has as many, and in many cases more, years of education than either an engineer or your average college graduate in business.

SherylM: my thesis is that there has become an endless spiral into the cult of the expert that began with the depression. If the 8 year Project had ever received its due when the results first came out in the 1930's, we would not be trying to solve the same problems again and again every five years.

GeorgeK: Is it groundhog day?

DavidW smiles

SherylM: every day

RogerMG: Tom Hanks . . .oh no not that same song every morning:-)

SherylM smiles and nods

DavidW . o O (Bill Murray)

RogerMG: Sorry . . .got actors mixed up . . .they also are paid more.

DavidW laughs

GeorgeK: Tom Hanks and the groundhogs?

DavidW: lots more

SherylM: well, money that is the key; there is so little of it; people are trained to fight over it instead of collaborate or become active in pursuing more.

GeorgeK: My thesis is that the big shortcoming we have with our teachers is that we (U.S. society) don't have respect for our teachers. Fix that first, then fix the other items one by one.

SherylM: then you get the expert who trains his/her cadre who train their cadre....

DavidW: first step towards fixing that, George?

SherylM: o O money talks

GeorgeK: I think we need to walk a mile in those shoes.

RogerMG: I shared a house with Matt Damon's mom. Matt's a college dropout. Now he's a multi-millionaire and I'm . . .well . . .here:-) But, I'm happy!! Maybe I fit the thing George pointed out, the old say 'Those that do, those that can't do . . .'

SherylM: You know I don't need money, but it is respected in our culture

DavidW: but for many people \$\$\$ = respect

RogerMG: I agree Sheryl. . .in other cultures status is more impt.

GeorgeK: Well, a state U grad paid reduced tuition compared to private U's, Maybe they need to give back for a year or two?

DavidW . o O (Karl Rove didn't finish college)

RogerMG: I like that idea George . . .but even then they have loans to pay off don't they?

DavidW: forgive the loans

RogerMG: OK . . .for service.

DavidW: . o O (after a certain number of years)

DavidW: The trick is to make it ATTRACTIVE

SherylM: When I was young, my dad, a teacher, said there were two types of status, economic and respect, but I don't think the respect status exists now

RogerMG: OK . . .how can teaching be made more attractive if we look at George's comparisons?

GeorgeK: In Switzerland, every male serves in the army reserves from age 17 to 70 or something like that. Why not a reserve teacher corp or something like that?

DavidW: From George's list of things comparing corporate/education worlds - once the newness wears off, the attraction to stay in education seems to be limited

SherylM: it takes about 5 years

RogerMG: Here's an old stat: may not be valid today. Burnout for the average teacher occurs in about 3 yrs.

DavidW: I've been interested for some time in talking with retired teachers to become part of Tapped In, on-line mentors, etc.

GeorgeK: "Where" too, if the teacher is in a difficult /. unfavorable location

RogerMG: The businessperson keeps getting rewards and the teacher burns out.

SherylM: Last spring, some group here was talking about teacher isolation; when I taught in urban schools, I could always find someone in the whole district like me, but in rural schools you may not find a compadre

DavidW: One of the most interesting articles I've read in the past year (on the BIG issues in education) detailed how in the past teachers felt parents would back them up (especially with respect to discipline in school) - that has changed quite a bit

DavidW: more reason for virtual communities, Sheryl, don't you think?

SherylM: of course

RogerMG: I think teachers need to create coalition of like-minded folks to survive . . .it's

also VERY necessary to change things.

RogerMG: TI helps to build coalitions.

SherylM: I think Tapped In is the best; I may be biased but I don't think so...

RogerMG: There needs to be more done (I think) to provide for psychological renewal for teachers.

SherylM: It is the real time chat w/o IM geegaws that I like....I think you could get older teachers here to talk with younger teachers or to present...if they knew it was like this...uncomplicated

RogerMG: If teachers are 'burned out' then getting them to adapt to and adopt learning technologies is going to be VERY difficult.

DavidW: George, I wonder if you set up the same comparison between K-12 teachers and higher ed. teachers - perhaps that is a more relevant comparison with additional means for incentives

SherylM: I started teaching when I was 20, and I always looked for the older teachers to help me.

GeorgeK: What about charter schools built around technology and "future" rather than backward thinking?

GeorgeK: I'll think about that comparison.

DavidW nods

SherylM: I see that as more diminution of effort and resources. To me it focuses on being a Janus...looking forward and backwards.

SherylM: "We stand on the shoulders of giants!"

RogerMG: David, I'm responding to you question to George: If it is a 'teaching college or university' they may suffer the same problems as K 12, If it is research based, the likelihood is of burnout and other problems in the comparison are less. Lots of rewards for research.

GeorgeK: But are the Giants in first place? Did they use steroids?

DavidW: I was trying to find an online version of a John Dewey speech, "The School as Social Centre"...

SherylM: I don't know, you would have to ask Galileo. lol

DavidW: Yes, Roger. I think there is more understanding of renewal, learning new things - sabbaticals, for example

SherylM: Yes, a renaissance...what about lab schools? Isn't that where the research was done?

RogerMG: Right . . .but if you are in a research univ. you can go off anywhere anytime pretty much and you TA will cover for you,

DavidW: 10 years ago we had some interesting discussions about opening the schools up to the community as more and more technology was being placed there

GeorgeK: I recently read a paper by some IBMers, who were defining Knowledge Management as "the socialization of knowledge." maybe that's the approach we need to take?

DavidW: connection between places of learning in a community (school, library, etc.)

RogerMG: More please George . . .meaning of soc. of knowledge?

SherylM: the land grant university and extension renaissance

GeorgeK: On its own, knowledge is not of much use. It has to be "socially" available and valued.

SherylM: Yes, that is where the extension service comes in...to interpret

GeorgeK: socially distributed

SherylM: to interpret and socially distribute!

SherylM: Teachers should be the extension service of their institution, not abandoned once they stop paying tuition

SherylM: Institutions should adopt partners across the country or even other countries; sister institutions

JeffC joined the room.

SherylM: all of this can be done through technological advancements

SherylM waves to Jeff

JeffC waves

JeffC: it's not the tech advancement... it's the human advancement I worry about.

SherylM: I agree

GeorgeK: What if the former is not a reflection of the latter?

SherylM: Would you agree that we all are getting to know each other? to form collaborative communities? to reinforce the human ingredient?

DavidW: yes

GeorgeK: We on TI and others who use similar sites?

SherylM: Yes, I think the real time chat helps us avoid isolation here...I don't know about other asynchronous sites

GeorgeK: I meant those who don't use tech at all...I have seen a lot of provincialism out there.

SherylM: For me, Second Life is just a hill too far! I read Neal Stephenson's book "Snow Crash" I don't want to be an off the rack Barbie.

SherylM: Yes, that is why you do need people to be Johnny Chapman

GeorgeK: now a samurai pizza delivery guy....what a target career!

RogerMG: Read Diamond Age.

SherylM: To share to give to borrow to receive

GeorgeK: Agreed, Diamond Age should be required of all.

DavidW tries to keep up with the cultural references

SherylM: No, he was also the lead programmer of the progenitor of what became Second life

SherylM: remember, his rich friend gets fried in a Snow Crash?

GeorgeK: I forgot that.

RogerMG: But in Diamond Age (Stephenson) the young lady learns and becomes educated.

GeorgeK: lots of young ladies

GeorgeK: In fact, they take over, don't they?

SherylM: Hiro was very derogative about wannabes with off the rack avatars...it was very revealing

SherylM: Yes, the techno kids took over from the exploitation experts.

GeorgeK: I am running out of steam.

DavidW smiles

RogerMG: When people are not able to distinguish well between themselves and their avatars . . .we will be in real trouble:-)

SherylM: Well, it all comes back to being who you are and sharing and caring...the more you get to know the happier we'll be...sorry but I really believe that...tech can help

RogerMG: If we look at what the gurus of nanotech are telling us, this could be a real problem during this century.

JeffC: well... one of these days I'll have a second life.

JeffC: one way or another

DavidW thinks people still need to go and have coffee, eat meals, take kids to the game

SherylM: No, Joe, say its not so

SherylM: lol

SherylM: Yes, real stuff...esp coffee and kids

JeffC: oh... I'm taking my kid to the game right now... I'll be afk while he's refighting wii and or terrorists.

DavidW nods

SherylM nods

RogerMG: I agree . . .And thanks all for being here. We will meet again, same time same station next month . . .as Bob and Ray used to say, keep that mail coming and hang by your thumbs:-)

BJB2 waves bye and heads for A K-12 Teacher Wiki

JeffC: thanks Roger

BJB2: thanks, Roger

DavidW: Thanks, Roger

JeffC: thanks George for earlier (and apologize for my rants)... I'll email you tomorrow.

GeorgeK: Thanks Roger, and all.

GeorgeK: OK Jeff.

RogerMG: Ranting is always permissible Jeff.

DavidW smiles

DavidW: It's been interesting to see a few TI members, teacher educators, who really are using TI with their students

DavidW . o O (Danika Brown is the person I've been thinking about recently)

RogerMG: I agree David

SherylM: Danika has it together

BJB2 . o O (Danika just brought a new group in tonight)

DavidW: What would be interesting would be to do some sort of follow-up with these folks and their students/pre-service teachers to see where they are when they get into classrooms

SherylM: really...that doesn't surprise me I saw her working in her office today

DavidW: As the "online" education experience helped them, made them more interested in tech, etc.

DavidW: I think Mary Thompson (at the University of Houston) has done this as well.