

Title of Session: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning

Moderator: George Klemic

Title of File: 20071025frol

Date: October 25, 2007

Room: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning Group

BJB2: sorry to touch a nerve about the firewall issue...

BJB2: I know everyone is trying to do the best they can in providing a safe place

BJB2: but it sure seems like we as educators are missing the boat on this one...

BJB2: what do the kids do when they go home and log in?

JesseS: chat

JesseS: listen to music

JesseS: myspace

JesseS: etc. etc

BJB2 nods...and where are they learning about how to be safe online? What information to and not to reveal?

JesseS: do not reveal personal information.

BJB2: and are they learning about viruses?

JesseS: Everything about you should be fake.

JesseS: seem not to care about them.

BJB2: hmmm...and how do they learn about credible sites? (assuming they think everything is fake?)

DavidW joined the room.

JesseS: well not everything is fake.

BJB2: you're right about kids not caring about viruses...kids are invulnerable!

BJB2 hugs David

DavidW . o O (get a Mac!)

DavidW hugs BJ

BJB2: Jesse, are you aware of the K-12 Student Campus in Tapped In?

JesseS: kids usually use the computer for fun, not to learn

JesseS: so, most of the fun site are kind of dangerous.

DavidW: but learning can be fun

BJB2: yikes...and how are we supposed to create life long learners?

JesseS: I think that the problem relies on kids using technology to learn only at school, once they get home they use it more for fun.

DavidW: I think, again, that depends on the context of the learning

JanetJG joined the room.

BJB2: hi, Janet. Welcome

JesseS: I feel it is really out of the educators hands to have students use technology to learn only.

JanetJG: thank you hi

JesseS: Parents have to also get involved.

BJB2: no Roger so we're having our own conversation

DavidW: If the students become responsible for doing something and see it as a reflection of their interest and involvement in something serious - they can often spend time away from school doing more learning

BJB2: what about global project based learning?

DavidW: good lead-in, Bj

BJB2 . o O (GPBL discussion starts in 45 minutes ;-)

BJB2: projects that involve active learning and collaboration...

BJB2: often with students in another part of the world

BJB2: learning about different cultures, different geography

BJB2: Janet, feel free to jump in at any time

JanetJG: k

BJB2: do you teach, Janet?

BJB2 . o O (sorry...we usually do introductions at the beginning of discussions)

JanetJG: no...I did...and then I was an instructional coach...sorry I was late

BJB2: also, since you are new to Tapped In a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and click on detach

JesseS: hello everyone, My name is Jesse, I am from McAllen, TX and I am an IT coordinator.

JanetJG: k...thanks

JanetJG: hi Jesse

BJB2: what interested you in this discussion, Janet?

BJB2: do you find that your faculty resists online learning and teaching?

JanetJG: a paper...I am an instructional tech student at Boston university

JanetJG: yes they resist it and I was in the inner city so it wasn't available...

BJB2: yikes...hard to get buy in when there's nothing to buy!

JanetJG: but the teachers I coached did most of technology in centers

BJB2: what took place in the technology centers?

JanetJG: really...I am in Cleveland and they just bought 4 million dollars of metal detectors...does that count?

DavidW . o O (I'm sure it counts, but...)

BJB2 sighs deeply

JanetJG: no not technology centers...centers in their classrooms

GeorgeK joined the room.

JanetJG: hi George

DavidW waves to George

BJB2: George!

GeorgeK: hi, sorry I am late.

LindaU joined the room.

JesseS: hello George.

DavidW waves to Linda

JesseS: hello Linda

BJB2: Hi, Linda!

LindaU: hi.. sorry to me late

BJB2 . o O (Linda is leading the GPBL discussion at the hour, Jesse)

GeorgeK: Is Roger with us?

BJB2: nope...wasn't here for the last session either

LindaU: meant to get here at 8 to see what I can learn.

BJB2 . o O (but you can tell him the group solved all the OTL problems ;-))

BJB2: Linda, we're all learning from each other during these discussions!

BJB2: right, Jesse?

JesseS: yes

GeorgeK: Well, Roger started this because we experienced great resistance from non-business faculty

DavidW smiles

LindaU: I know...

JanetJG: what is non-business faculty?

GeorgeK: I know we learn a lot from each other, but somehow we have to get more into this choir.

DavidW: George is referring to university faculty (school of business)

GeorgeK: U-level faculty outside the B school

JanetJG: k..thanks

GeorgeK: Over the last two years we learned that K-12 has the same issues.

JanetJG: seems very common

DavidW: . o O (although not necessarily the SAME divide)

GeorgeK: We also learned a bunch from the K-12 participants

JanetJG: what?

LindaU: so..are business school faculty less resistant... if so, why?

GeorgeK: Well, maybe to not give a darn about those outside the choir and find ways to do your own thing

JanetJG: George...what did you learn?

DavidW: they seem to be more involved with using technology, Linda

LindaU: I'm working with HS faculty now.. and am trying to puzzle out their resistance...

GeorgeK: B school faculty usually have significant non-academic work exper. in which they used the equivalent of on-line learning

JanetJG: ah...they don't have confidence in their computer skills...and it is a paradigm shift to use technology

JanetJG: people teach how they were taught for the most part

LindaU: I suspect that to be true George.. but what can we learn from that to help the resistant?

GeorgeK: I think it goes deeper than that. I sense the need for a massive paradigm shift in K-to-grade education.

GeorgeK: I think much of what and how we have been teaching is wrong.

BJB2: don't you think that shift is already starting to take place?

LindaU: I've spent the past 12+ years trying to create the paradigm shift.

JanetJG: it is needed so much but where do they get it from? the administration is made up of former teachers

JesseS: trainings could be a good option, Linda.

JanetJG: have you been successful at all Linda?

GeorgeK: The shift is started, but we are seeing only the surface artifacts at this point.

JanetJG: I was a special education teacher 20 years ago and that shift is still going on Linda, Don't loose heart

GeorgeK: Remember that tenured faculty feel safe in treating on-line training like drugs, they just say no.

BJB2: is the shift taking place in the teacher education colleges?

DavidW smiles

DavidW: I worry that it really IS NOT, in many places, Bj

LindaU: Yes... in pockets, Janet... I was in the SF Bay Area and saw a LOT of change.. Now I'm in NC and in many ways It's just like 10 + years ago in the SF Area

JanetJG: not from what I read

GeorgeK: I believe it started but NCLB interrupted it.

LindaU: Good point George... I agree

JanetJG: ;-) so true...the NCLB people have to be shifted more than anyone

LindaU: Those almighty high stakes test scores intervened.

DavidW: One question I started to hear after NCLB was passed was whether using technology would improve test scores - my honest answer was, "No."

GeorgeK: I have read marvelous Ed literature meant for K-12 that we could use at the U level, and the marvelous has morphed to the mediocre.

LindaU: Nothing like a high stakes multiple choice test to stifle innovation in education.

JanetJG: I think it has the best chance David,. If we don't do something we chance loosing the students totally.

DavidW nods to Janet

LindaU: technology and test scores are NOT related...

DavidW: But, some teachers simply wanted computer-based test-prep material - I think that's not going to make the technology do much

JanetJG: but technology and learning are

LindaU: If technology is viewed as a learning tool, Janet, not the panacea for education.

GeorgeK: Technology and life are, and we should be teaching what the kids need to know for life.

LindaU: 21st Century Skills..

GeorgeK: yes

LindaU: How to live, work and thrive in a global economy.

JanetJG: right but the skills are not what the testing or teachers think they should be doing

LindaU: that is the disconnect.

JanetJG: exactly

LindaU: The pressure from districts which comes down from state departments of educ is get those test scores up and looking good.. It is not on really educating students to live and work in the 21st Century.

JanetJG: how do you ask people to change things they have been doing for 10 or 20 years?

LindaU: The goal of education cannot simply be higher test scores...

DavidW: It takes administrative leadership and sustained support for teachers

LindaU: That is what I do.. I work with teachers and administrators to try to get them to change...

GeorgeK: The big driver of agreement to change is usually the receipt of disconcerting info, like a diagnosis of the big C gets one to stop smoking

GeorgeK: I believe the customers are going to tell we in education to take a hike

LindaU: You are right David, but administrators are getting political pressure to make sure test scores go up.

LindaU: In some cases their jobs depend on this.

DavidW: Yes, Linda

DavidW: Some people DO seem to be able to take that pressure and still see the their role as educational leader

LindaU: That is part of the disconnect.. Why spend \$\$\$\$ on technology when you can't prove it'll raise test scores.

GeorgeK: The scores won't go up unless the students want them to...and they have no reason to do that.

JanetJG: can't business get involved? pressure from them could do something

LindaU: I happen to believe that in classrooms where students are engaged, learning takes place. If learning takes place it'll be reflected in test scores..... but

JanetJG: you are right Linda.

LindaU: if you only want to raise test scores then you prep students for the tests.. HOW BORING!

GeorgeK: How do you overcome the glacier that is D.C. rolling over all of us?

LindaU: You mean you're not buried yet?

GeorgeK: Right Linda

JanetJG: by having business put pressure on their pals...they don't need the kind of education we are doing today

GeorgeK: but it is catching up

LindaU: We educators tend to take things lying down.. We take what is handed out to us, rather than fighting for what we know is right...

GeorgeK: In last month's TI session someone pointed to the babysitting value of education

JanetJG: I just read an article today that says workers today bring only 10% of the knowledge they need to the workplace...

LindaU: I believe WE, as educators, are the professionals, and need to be in charge of what happens in schools.. NOT the politicians..

JanetJG: the rest is how to learn

LindaU: I think I've read the same or a similar article...

JanetJG: sorry Linda...fat chance teachers will speak out on that or be listened to

JanetJG: what was the last thing they spoke up on besides school safety

LindaU: I know... that is the crux of the problem... we are not considered as professionals... but then insurance companies treat doctors the same way.

JanetJG: I have the website to that article...but it wouldn't paste...we are not considered professionals because we don't speak up as a group...ie. the ama

GeorgeK: We often focus on piddly items rather than the important..that does not help

JanetJG: thank you George

GeorgeK: No, thank you Janet

JanetJG: ;-)

GeorgeK: At my level I worry about the revenue focus of the admission process and how that may affect K-12

JanetJG: I would love for you to have the URL to those articles...but it is long...how can I do that if I can't paste?

BJB2: use keyboard commands, Janet

DavidW . o O (you should be able to paste it in, Janet)

JanetJG: I tried

BJB2 . o O (control C to copy and control V to paste)

GeorgeK: If we really screened as was done before college became big business, the incentive to do well k-12 might return

LindaU: Here is an article you all might find

interesting: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showstoryts.cfm?Articleid=7434>

JanetJG: thanks Linda

DavidW: it also seems there should be some better understanding of K-12 education by higher education

JanetJG: why David?

GeorgeK: David, ?

DavidW: I've learned that more and more academically superior students are coming to college with less preparation than they used to

LindaU: That is frightening, David.

GeorgeK: but they seem to close the gap swiftly

DavidW: colleges are providing more and more remedial courses to catch students up - even students with excellent grades

JanetJG: probably because they are turned off by what is happening in the schools

LindaU: So how do we turn kids back on to learning?

JanetJG: by using technology...it is a vicious circle I am afraid

DavidW: Many students going to community colleges are learning that their "success" in high school math (I know more about math) is enough to get them from repeating the course (of the same name) in college

LindaU: It's not use USING technology.. it's HOW we use it

GeorgeK: I don't think the sharp ones are turned off. I think teachers can't focus on the better because they have to get the poorer to pass

JanetJG: right Linda

DavidW: if students have more of a portfolio of what they've done, what they can show they understand, this might work better than SAT scores

JanetJG: the sharp ones are...students today never knew a world without the inner net

LindaU: Yes, David...

JanetJG: they are way ahead of their teachers

LindaU: There is a subset of students who know how to do what is necessary to get the grades for college.. This may not equate to really learning and expanding on their prior knowledge

JanetJG: how boring would that be...

JanetJG: right on Linda!

LindaU: I find it interesting that the traditional "success" careers.. engineering, medicine, MBAs are now being taken by graduates of India, China, and SE Asia who are willing to work for less \$.

GeorgeK: for now, the value of the \$ is dropping fast

LindaU: We need to educate students who can think, analyze, create, evaluate and design...We need to change the way we think about education.

BJB2: Linda, that is a perfect segue into the Dan Pink book...

GeorgeK: What shall we talk about next time, in case Roget is MIA again?

LindaU: Where do you think I got this idea??? BJ

LindaU: ;-)

DavidW . o O (Tapped In Book Club?)

GeorgeK: ?

BJB2 winks at Linda. I think we should take this discussion in that direction, Linda...

JanetJG: we could talk about that article Linda gave us...

JanetJG: looks interesting

BJB2: George, have you read A Whole New Mind by Daniel Pink?

GeorgeK: no

LindaU: It's a good read...

BJB2: recommended

GeorgeK: but I will, and Linda's article too

DavidW: <http://www.danpink.com/>

JanetJG:

<http://www.educationau.edu.au/jahia/Jahia/home/cache/offonce/pid/318;jsessionid=ABA3A8D7A4712AC43F7A672C3B3A5315%23goto-1802%23goto-1967>

BJB2: those two should keep us busy for the November session!

JanetJG: I just pasted the articles...they are great

GeorgeK: ok.

BJB2: Roger will be in the Cook Islands in December!

JanetJG: it was a conference in au

LindaU: I'm heading off to the GPBL room.. Thank you all..

BJB2: thanks, Janet!

JanetJG: bye...thanks...it was fun

GeorgeK: Thanks and adios

BJB2: Thanks, George and Linda and Jesse

BJB2 waves bye and heads for GPBL

DavidW waves to Janet

DavidW: Thanks, George

GeorgeK: bye all