

Title of Session: Online Teaching and Learning/Faculty Res. To Learning

Moderator: Roger Goodson

Title of File: 20080424otlfrol

Date: April 24, 2008

Room: Online Teaching and Learning Group

BJB2: not sure if we'll have much participation, Roger

BJB2: what did you want to share?

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2: hi, Jeff

JeffC waves

RogerMG: I know. It's end of the semester out here and everyone is rushing to finish up projects, close out courses, etc.

RogerMG: Hi Jeff.

BJB2 nods

RogerMG: I wanted them to look at a new file in featured items, 25 basic tech. skills that all educators should have.

RogerMG: I was going to have them look these over and to discuss which one's they do have and which one's they have not yet acquired . . .with an eye towards supporting them in the acquisition of those skills.

JeffC wonders if it's similar to one I saw at ISTE a few years back.

RogerMG: It's the same list, except that was published in 2005. New 'stuff' to learn since then:)

JeffC nods

RogerMG: Given that you two already have these skills, you might want to take a look at another file I uploaded, 'The Convergence of Learning and performance'

BJB2: this is the one you told me you posted in your office?

RogerMG: Yes.

JeffC: well... the issue of losing all these workers due to retirement will become moot... just end retirement... problem solved.

BJB2: wait a little longer, Jeff!

BJB2 . o O (after June 13 you can try to push that)

BJB2: actually, I think industry has been shooting itself in the foot for many years...

RogerMG: George had referenced some of this in a couple of past meetings. Actually, if you think of schools, we have the similar problems.

BJB2: no longer does business value the 'experienced' worker

JeffC: well... better to shoot themselves in the foot than what education has been doing... shooting ourselves in the head.

JeffC is getting Florence to join us.

RogerMG smiles

BJB2: in both cases, much prior knowledge and history is lost

RogerMG: Absolutely . . .so we keep remaking the wheel.

JeffC: wheels are filtered in my district.

BJB2 nods...instead of inventing a new means of transportation

BJB2 . o O (on the one hand, there are those old heads who feel that we've done it this way for so many years and it's worked fine, why change)

RogerMG: I will retire during the next couple of years and I have been the lead person in tech. and learning on campus. There is no one else there that is involved enough to know what I am taking with me . . .and they will lose.

BJB2 nods solemnly

RogerMG: brb . . .gotta take a laundry out.

FlorenceE joined the room.

BJB2: good job, Florence!

BJB2: Roger has added a couple files that we're discussing

BJB2: they're listed under featured items above the chat

BJB2: 25 basic technology skills

JeffC: thinks that the list is outdated...

BJB2: and Convergence of Learning and Performance

CharlesE joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Charles

RogerMG: Hi Florence, Charles

FlorenceE: Hi!

CharlesE: Greetings

JeffC: the list of 25 is good... but... the tech skills that are most needed imho aren't really tech skills per se... but paramount in importance to using tech.

JeffC: namely... collaboration... the ability to think outside the box... how to *transform* curricula through tech... the ability to transcend standards based approaches while incorporating tech... overcoming status quo atavistic attitudes about tech, etc.

CharlesE: How about the ability to counter the administrative agenda of most public schools.

RogerMG: I agree. Transforming curricula is of great importance . . .and with that we must support overall structural change. Otherwise, we will keep spinning our wheels, and remaking the wheel . . .By the way, I like that word 'atavistic' very appropriate.

JeffC: I've used it ever since reading "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas." I think I'll start writing "Fear and Loathing in America's Schools."

RogerMG: Charles, that's one of the structural areas most in need of change.

JeffC: I was about two feet inside of the classroom when the ennui began to take effect...

RogerMG: Hunter Thompson would be proud and probably send you a quart of Wild Turkey.

JeffC: hehe

CharlesE: Has anyone taken this list and had teachers actually rank order this list by perceived need, current skill level, etc...

FlorenceE: I may have missed something, but how about podcasting and its benefits for those students with auditory needs?

FlorenceE: ...for the list....

JeffC: and... it's not the administrators of schools... although they are indeed oftentimes atavistic bastards... it's the politicians who oversee the purse strings... NCLB needs repealing if we're to move forward. almost *all educators agree that NCLB is taking schools backwards... but where is the outcry except in every staff room*?

RogerMG: OK . . .thx Florence . . .now we're up to 26.

JeffC: sure Florence... and speech to text and text to speech... the list could go on and on regarding individual pieces of tech... but the point is... the list needs expansion into philosophy/mission statement, etc.

RogerMG: NCLB is the politicians idea of structural change.

FlorenceE: Have you covered communication skills and sandwiching to control tone?

JeffC: addressing different learning styles with different approaches/tools/etc. ...and of course one major thing is also omitted: support.

CharlesE: with a strong federal government overtone.

JeffC: what kinda sandwich?

FlorenceE: Feedback.

JeffC prefers a hot pastrami on rye with swiss cheese and mustard.

JeffC is wry

FlorenceE: Gentle greeting, constructive suggestions, positive wrap-up on any feedback...tone is so critical to rapport online and eventual success and "safety" for students.

CharlesE: give students constructive feedback, sandwiched with a [helping] of good positive encouragement.

FlorenceE orders Jeff's sandwich

CharlesE: is that hot temp sand wich or hot spicy.

RogerMG: pbj please:)

JeffC: my dad used to say "food is good if it makes you sweat, but food is *great* only if it can make your nose run."

FlorenceE: Does the mention of the learning management system skills in the list include familiarity with a variety of LMSs?

RogerMG: I hope so . . .I use Moodle now, but have used several others in the past. What about Web 2.0?

FlorenceE: I don't know that one....have worked with Blackboard, Angel and a little time on Moodle

RogerMG: Actually, my U. is dropping WebCT and going to Moodle and Jenzebar's LMS

JeffC: Web 2.0 is more of a collaborative philosophy than a specific system.

FlorenceE: The school I work for has moved away from tests and quizzes to authentic projects and, of course, papers as their assessment tools...both in Bb and in Angel.

RogerMG: But . . .they write about it as if it is a system.

JeffC: and one LMS won't cut it... any one size fits all approach to online learning limits everyone.

JeffC: that's good to hear Florence... are they creating digital portfolios for the students?

FlorenceE: Change is the only constant, true. It's critical for us to be able to function in whatever system we are placed into.

RogerMG: Yeh Florence. That's the way it should go. I find online tests and quizzes pretty useless. I am now having students construct team essay exams using wikis.

FlorenceE: Yes, they use TaskStream.

JeffC: just the other day I was trying to facilitate a group meeting *here*... there were some problems getting the students to the group room... it was a Photoshop class. i ended up recommending them *away* from Tapped In and towards Yugma, where they could have desktop sharing (something I thought was very important for a class on Photoshop).

JeffC: no one system or approach works for everyone all the time. prima facie educators need to adopt hybrid approaches to online teaching and learning.

FlorenceE: Tell us about Yugma. I think I must have been sleeping in the closet to not know about some of these things....time to update myself.

FlorenceE: Agreed, Jeff.

FlorenceE: Things change so quickly. Every new device or access gives us some new star to reach for.

JeffC: <http://www.yugma.com> ...basically it's similar to Elluminate, Horizon, etc.

JeffC: well... or another tool to use... of course many educators try and cram everything into what they already know and use, whether appropriate or not.

RogerMG: I'd like to have a couple of Yugma sessions with Jeff once this semester ends. I am still having trouble getting it to work right

JeffC: blackboard is *old school*... any "classroom in a box" system that doesn't allow students to collaborate outside of their classroom is Web 1.0. Web 2.0 realizes the possibilities extend far beyond the immediate classroom. We've been held to "face to face classroom standards" for too long... the real apple versus the virtual orange argument.

FlorenceE: I need an overview, intro and, etc.

JeffC: well... I could host a yugma session now if you want to take a look.

FlorenceE: Our U. did not want students to go offsite to do their team work, but they also won't provide a chat vehicle.

RogerMG: That would be great!

RogerMG: I want to use it for my next Obama meeting.

FlorenceE: I'd like the yugma session, too.

JeffC: ok... I'm launching one now...

JeffC: go to <http://www.yugma.com> and I'll tell you the session to join in just a minute.

JeffC: join session [211-533-110](http://www.yugma.com)

JeffC: it will take you a few minutes... you'll have to download a plugin.

JeffC: but anyhow... it's just one more tool that could/should be used in certain situations.

CharlesE: how does yugma work with different platforms and operating systems.

JeffC: cross platform

JeffC: basically... I've got it set up now to share my desktop.

JeffC: I can also switch who sees it.

JeffC: and... since I have a premium account... I can have others control my desktop or control theirs.

JeffC: which means I might actually fix Roger's browser today!

FlorenceE: I have a little box that seems to want me to open an account....should I do that? When I click on join after entering the session number, nothing happens.

JeffC: hmmm

JeffC: well... I don't think you need to create an account to join a session... and don't know why you're not able to join mine offhand.

FlorenceE: mac?

RogerMG: I'm getting the message 'Unable to communicate with server. It could be due to network failure or server not responding. Try again later.'

JeffC: should work

JeffC: eek

JeffC: well... that's a problem!

JeffC: you're both on macs?

RogerMG: pc

FlorenceE: Charlie is not on mac.

FlorenceE: but I did click on the mac download that presented a few minutes ago

JeffC: it shouldn't matter anyway

RogerMG: Which browser does Yubma work best with . . .any diff?

JeffC: anyhow... keep trying I guess... but let's keep the convo flowing here on other things.

FlorenceE: Don't let me hold you up. If Charlie gets in, he'll let me know and I'll go OTS

JeffC: I always use firefox.

JeffC: like I said... it's just a tool.

FlorenceE: I like adding new tools to my toolbox.

JeffC: and obviously one that is having some problems right now... as with *anything* the first time around...

JeffC: any new tech tool will take time to get used to.

FlorenceE: We'll keep trying. It will work.

FlorenceE: Busy time for server, perhaps.

BJB2: I can't get to your session either, Jeff

BJB2 . o O (keep being prompted to update)

JeffC: oh well

FlorenceE: I'm really interested in learning more about making distance learning more individual, such as using podcasts which my U. does not employ currently. We all have students with special needs; sometimes we need new options.

RogerMG: I updated, but still couldn't get in.

JeffC: right... and having a real time audio/video presentation/class can be very useful. another site you should check out is <http://www.wiziq.com> Florence... real time audio/video, interactive whiteboard, ability to show powerpoints, automatically archived, flash based, no plugin. only drawback is at the moment, no desktop sharing.

FlorenceE: I like the list...have read through it. We just had a discussion in one of my classes and the students have a lot to say about how important the classroom environment feels as they enter. Although a U. might like a uniform look, students feel that a uniform look without understanding and flexibility can "feel" austere.

JeffC: yup

JeffC: ok... fyi I'm exiting yugma.

FlorenceE: Interwise is what our dau.'s cyber school uses. Can you make a comparison between Interwise and wiziq?

JeffC: hmmm... I think I've used interwise before... but can't recall its features.

CharlesE: the uniform look comes from the marketing dept of the univ. It may add some continuity to the lms but students seem to find what they need, no matter how it's organized.

FlorenceE: My students...and our youngest, the Cyber dau., speak highly of classrooms with humor, understanding, flexibility, creativity....

JeffC: <http://www.interwise.com/Features.html>

FlorenceE: If we are scaled down to lecture, overviews/assignments and some discussion, it is still possible to offer a warm place of learning to distance learners

RogerMG: Charles, has edited the list and categorized it in ways that meet some of Jeff's thoughts regarding what was missing from the list. Take a look at the OTL Whiteboard.

RogerMG: Thx. Charles!

FlorenceE: On the note of Interwise, the school techs are able to go in and see each student's desktop to be able to trouble-shoot.

JeffC: any idea how much interwise costs?

FlorenceE: no, sorry.

RogerMG: One thing that I have become interested in is distributed cognition . . .this would seem a good place to perhaps have a discussion on that at some point . . .particularly in linking distributive cognition with the technology rich 'classroom'.

BJB2: Roger, Elizabeth is in the FROL room

BJB2: do you want to move there or shall I invite Elizabeth to join us here?

RogerMG: OK . . ok . . .hate to leave this discussion. I'm headed there . . .actually, why not do that.

RogerMG: invite her to join us.

CharlesE: can you elaborate on this a bit..

RogerMG: OK I'm going to try yugma again

ElizabethC joined the room.

RogerMG: Hi Elizabeth.

FlorenceE: Hi, Elizabeth!

ElizabethC: Hi

FlorenceE offers refreshments

ElizabethC: I'll have a Coke, please.

FlorenceE pours a nice cold Coke for Elizabeth.

ElizabethC: Mmmm, delicious. Thank you.

FlorenceE: You're welcome! :)

FlorenceE carries tray with munchies and beverages for all to choose from

FlorenceE: Just some sustenance while we discuss....

RogerMG: Yugma mugged me.

RogerMG: Still the same message.

FlorenceE gets the FirstAid kit

RogerMG: Thanks Florence. (staggering around and looking dazed.)

FlorenceE moves chair toward Roger

RogerMG: Anyone else been able to get in to Yugma?

FlorenceE: not yet

BJB2: I did

FlorenceE: Good!

RogerMG: What browser are you using BJ?

BJB2: IE on a PC

RogerMG: Yeh. That's what I've been using. I'll try again.

BJB2: oops...no, Firefox

FlorenceE: I'm using Safari....

BJB2 . o O (so many windows, so many choices!)

FlorenceE: the "Join" button is nonfunctional

FlorenceE smiles

FlorenceE: for me, the button is nonfunctional, at least

RogerMG: Now it says session has not been started by the leader yet. please wait and try again when the leader has started the session.

JeffC: I ended my yugma session... if someone else wants to create one... feel free... but I'm out the door in a couple of minutes.

FlorenceE: Is an example of distributive cognition what happens when a collaborative group creates a Best Practices Manual?

RogerMG: Neat idea Florence.

FlorenceE: My current Distance Learning class is polishing their manuals this week. So much time and effort go into this, especially with no chat.

RogerMG: What tools are you using?

FlorenceE: Angel, mostly.

FlorenceE: That's our base.

RogerMG: So . . .Angel has wikis?

FlorenceE: Not to my knowledge.

FlorenceE: The students are placed into teams (by the instructors).

FlorenceE: and the teams work in their own forums.

RogerMG: Using a wiki for collaborative writing could be useful.

FlorenceE: They research outside the course site.

RogerMG: Are they visible forums .. .to the other teams?

FlorenceE: and come back and share what they have found.

FlorenceE: no

FlorenceE: hidden to the others

RogerMG: ic

FlorenceE: but it is possible to open access and permission for anyone

RogerMG: Sounds good.

FlorenceE: we keep the groups separate

FlorenceE: for their larger projects

RogerMG: Can they invite guests?

RogerMG: in the individual teams?

RogerMG: forums.

FlorenceE: but whole groups work in the discussion forum for each week, a cyber Cafe' and they have a Questions for Instructor Forum where I field course-related questions for them....keeps the discussion area uncluttered

RogerMG: (Mugging must have effected my brain . . .can't seem to get a sentence together all at once.)

FlorenceE: I haven't seen anyone try to invite.

FlorenceE offers ice pack

RogerMG: thx . . .weeping.

FlorenceE holds out a bottle of Tylenol and a bottle of Ibuprofen

RogerMG: I'll take a tylenol thx.

FlorenceE nods and gives I. to Roger

FlorenceE: The access is given to enrolled "Roster" members. I should look into "invitations".

FlorenceE: I am impressed that the U. runs their graduate program practicum through distance learning procedures. The first time I taught the practicum course, I was continually surprised.

FlorenceE: The students procure a mentor somewhere near where they teach.

FlorenceE: They receive a handbook and many forms to use.

FlorenceE: They work out agreements with their mentors and have action plans they have to live by.

FlorenceE: Angel work continues

FlorenceE: very interesting

FlorenceE: It was one thing I doubted we could accomplish online since I am in PA and they are in AZ.

FlorenceE: There is a lot of trust.

FlorenceE: That seems to make it possible.

FlorenceE: Trust and training.

RogerMG: Yugma seems a bit unstable.

RogerMG: OK. That's it for this evening. Sorry for all the confusion with Yugma. I do think that Charles' contribution is something we can work on next time, linking it to cognitive factors, etc. and perhaps refine this further. I would also like to hear more about the outcome of Florence's 'Manual' projects and more about how she developed them.

FlorenceE: sounds good....I'll need to check the calendar and find your next session

RogerMG: Last Thurs. of each month.

FlorenceE: look forward to working with you again....thanks for the session :)

FlorenceE: hope you heal quickly from the mugging... :)

RogerMG: I'm almost recovered . . .will be fully so once I have dinner.

RogerMG: Good night all . . .happy chips.