

Title of Session: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning

Moderator: Roger Goodson

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Room: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning Group

RogerMG: Now . . .if you really want to hear about Faculty Resistance to OL, Jeff has stories that will chill you to the bone.

GeorgeK: regale us, Jeff

BJB2: did you remind everyone to detach, Roger?

BJB2 . o O (and, since Sharaya is new to this group, what about intros)

RogerMG: Please go to 'Actions' and click 'Detach'.

VeronicaL: Ok..I have

RogerMG: did intros.

BJB2 nods...thanks, Roger

SharayaC: I am from the University of Houston and I am currently student teaching in pre-k.

RogerMG: We are really fast!!!!!!----->

VeronicaL: I'm from the University of Houston. I'm a student-teacher working on a bilingual certification

VeronicaL: Quest 3

BJB2 winks at Roger

SharayaC: I am quest 3 also

RogerMG: Is Jeff here?

VeronicaL: What district are you on?

SharayaC: Humble ISD

VeronicaL: I'm in Spring Branch ISD

JeffC: sort of

JeffC: I'm in Forest Grove Oregon, on Helpdesk here... mostly lurking in the session though.

RogerMG: ic...have you been 'cut', furloughed, or otherwise Jeff?

JeffC: yup

RogerMG: Which?

JeffC: I got fired once because I questioned the administration's budgetary decision making process... and laid off once due to budget cuts.

JeffC: laid off due to budget cuts and evil politics.

JeffC: and a psycho dean who was fired himself 6 months later.

RogerMG: ic . . .and were you involved with IT then?

JeffC: well... I've been "involved" with IT since I started teaching with the Net in 1996 I guess.

RogerMG: Given that many school systems are cutting back in terms of finances (closing schools, laying off teachers, etc.) I was wondering if that is happening where you are Jeff.

RogerMG: Or, have you heard of cuts in the technology budgets?

JeffC: well... I was laid off due to budget cuts a few years ago... but the budget cuts now mean that there's very little chance of getting hired in K-12. Our governor just asked teachers to work for free at the end of the school year, and our own district is talking about cutting three weeks off of the end of the year.

RogerMG: WOW!

JeffC: also... due to NCLB I can't even get credentialed in Oregon (since I don't have a Masters), even though I'm credentialed in California.

JeffC: not that I really want to go back into the classroom as a teacher anyway.

VeronicaL: uh..how come?

RogerMG: I assume that the gov. and legislature are also gong to work for free.

JeffC: because teaching has made huge leaps backwards during the NCLB era... although I do have hopes that Obama "sees the light" and we'll start entering the 21st Century during his tenure.

SharayaC: I love my job but it is impossible to live without getting some income

VeronicaL: yes...

RogerMG: uh huh

JeffC: well... the governor did take a \$5K pay cut... and he only makes 90K... which is a lot less than our own superintendent.

SharayaC: yeah but that is a whole lot more than I would make in several years combined

JeffC: yup

RogerMG: When people are furloughed and laid off, without a chance to negotiate how this will work . . .they are apt to de-commit to their work, or feel that their work is being devalued.

SharayaC: yes

VeronicaL: It's all very true

RogerMG: Here in CA schools are being closed, teachers laid off . . .and more to come.

GeorgeK: bigger class size, less paid prep time, etc

SharayaC: that is horrible. I'm glad we are not that bad here in Houston

RogerMG: Teachers, parents and students on picket lines.

JeffC knows that students have always been revolting.

BJB2 rolls her eyes at Jeff

VeronicaL: well, I know in Dallas...they're cutting down staff and closing several schools

SharayaC: We have not had any schools closed but there have definitely been plenty of pay cuts and layoffs

VeronicaL: yes...not in Houston

VeronicaL: However, it's very competitive

RogerMG: Well . . .teachers 'do' get three months off in the summer . . .this is a common statement made by people who see teaching as 'less' valuable; along with those who can do, do, do . . .those who can't teach.

SharayaC: that is certainly true

VeronicaL: it is.

RogerMG: Frankly, teaching is a 'tough' profession with little enough reward. Devaluing it is like adding insult to injury.

SharayaC: yeah I think teachers should be given more respect because everyone can't teach. It is something you must be called to do and have passion about it.

RogerMG: One thing that has been suggested, quietly in most quarters, is that we can expect to see a lot more online ed. during the next decade.

RogerMG: Sharaya. I agree.

RogerMG: Politicians see online teaching and learning as a potential way to save money.

SharayaC: but do the children learn and who actually benefits from it all?

VeronicaL: So, what is your personal opinion on online courses/classes and now, even getting BS degree all online?

GeorgeK: Depends on the individual...some can learn that way, so why not.

VeronicaL: I've taken a few courses online...some worked some didn't...I also think it depends on the instructor...

SharayaC: online courses are good for when you have tight schedules, but for some things it can only be gained from experience

RogerMG: Politicians Assumptions about this: frees up space so lowers school maintenance, can have larger classes, easier to do testing (NCLB)) and keep track of student progress (Big Brother) Fewer teachers necessary.

SharayaC: But what about the families that can not afford computers to do the classes. Will they provide those?

RogerMG: Libraries.

VeronicaL: what else is there?

GeorgeK: how many PCs equals a teacher's salary?

SharayaC: true but some people have varied schedules that may not work for them. Do the libraries extend their hours for those people?

RogerMG: (being silly with that) Doubtful they will provide them . . .but, supposedly an entrepreneur is developing a computer that will sell for less than \$100.00. It was being developed for 3rd world countries.

VeronicaL: No...

GeorgeK: With fewer teachers and the associated long-term costs, districts might be able to buy PCs or laptops.

RogerMG: And then lease them to students' families.

RogerMG: actually, they could make a profit.

GeorgeK: maybe give...can't really take them back.

VeronicaL: no...that will never work, at least in Spring Branch...(my school district)

RogerMG: And for books, they can have a Kindle

SharayaC: true there are too many kids to do that

RogerMG: (I don't think either George or I are being entirely serious here . . .I can only speak for myself.)

VeronicaL: I didn't think so..

SharayaC: me neither

GeorgeK: I am being serious...

VeronicaL: really???

GeorgeK: The thing that might make it untenable is the "baby sitting" factor.

SharayaC: yeah

VeronicaL: yes...

RogerMG: (Devil's advocate) Well, that's what teaching is right .. . glorified babysitting.

GeorgeK: monitors are cheaper than teachers

GeorgeK: class monitots, that is

SharayaC: it is definitely true especially with the younger ones because they do not have to send them to daycares or the parents just get some free time

RogerMG: A tech oriented teacher's aid could handle a tech. classroom which a single teachers has prepared . . .and that teacher could be responsible for multiple classrooms.

VeronicaL: true..but that's only for pre-k...(k is mandatory in Texas)

SharayaC: right

RogerMG: Given you, Sharaya and Veronica, are going 'out there' . . .what can you do to resist and change the negative images people have of the value of teaching?

VeronicaL: well, I think you have to start with your own students and their families...and continue from there....

RogerMG: Good place to start.

RogerMG: and then...?

GeorgeK: I believe you two will model ideal teacher behavior for others and have a positive affect on the profession.

RogerMG: (I particularly like the idea of including the families.)

VeronicaL: well...your school...your community...and so for..

BJB2: I think teachers also have to be good collaborators...with other teachers, with admin, with families

SharayaC: well people are going to see you in many ways but if you choose to do your best hopefully others will see teaching as something that should be valued. The more you communicate with others such as students and show them that you have integrity they will see you in a different light as you become more involved with them.

RogerMG: Absolutely BJ.

VeronicaL: and it would be very important to have the cooperation of other faculty members as well

GeorgeK: and collaborators with their students, can't leave them out

SharayaC: yes it would

RogerMG: right Sharaya! And, there is a need to develop a bit of a 'thick skin' to be able to handle the nay sayers and negativity that one often sees about teaching in the media and in government.

VeronicaL: well, you just have to show them what you are made of and prove them wrong

SharayaC: right

RogerMG: Good.

RogerMG: I like your attitudes.

RogerMG: We're running out of time. Any closing thoughts?

SharayaC: do your best and show others what you are made of

VeronicaL: Well, I think I have it a little bit easier because (being a bilingual teacher)..my students have a different culture and often think of teachers as very valuable

GeorgeK: I hope we can all get past the negatives of the recession and keep that positive future in mind.

VeronicaL: Yes...I'm sure we'll

RogerMG: BJ . . .Comment?

SharayaC: I know we can. it just takes time

GeorgeK: BJ, tons of rain, lightening and thunder in the last 1.5 hours, heading your way and should be there tomorrow. get the basement ready.

RogerMG: Some of us had parents who made it through the Great Depression. We can do it too.

BJB2: oh, thanks, George

SharayaC: right we can do anything we set our minds to

VeronicaL: Just want to thank you all...It has been a pleasure getting to know you and your experiences...

SharayaC: thanks see you guys later!

RogerMG: Thank you for being here with us.

GeorgeK: Thank you all, and good night.

RogerMG: Good night.

BJB2: Thanks, everyone, for the thought provoking discussion

VeronicaL: Thank you

BJB2 waves goodnight