Speculations on the Future of Higher Education

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1

Change Drivers

- Demographics

- Globalization
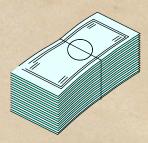
- Economic Restructuring

- Information Technology

Demographic Change Drivers

- Ethnic identification mix is changing

- Age structure is changing

- Nature of students is changing

- Demand for access is increasing

Economic

- Globalization

- Economic Restructuring

- Downsizing

Constant training, retraining, job-hopping, and even career-hopping is the norm.

Graduates Must Be Able To

- Function in a global economy for job success in the 21st century
- Work effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds
- Work as a team member
- Use information technology tools effectively
- Function creatively and innovatively
- Access, analyze, process, and communicate information
- Engage in continuous, independent learning

The Internet Assists Educators To:

‣ Center learning around the student

‣ Provide intensive interaction about authentic data

‣ Focus on the strengths of individual (and more diverse) learners around the globe

‣ Make lifelong learning a practical reality

Technology-Enhanced Active Learning

- MIT's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department
  - peer-to-peer learning
  - x-tutor

Networked Enabled Open and Distance Education

- MIT's Open Courseware Initiative

- MIT's iLab

- Open Courseware Consorium

- Global education

The Changing Higher Education Environment

- ‣ Certification monopoly at risk
  - ‣ employers concerned about competency
  - ‣ employers relying less on diplomas
- ‣ Outcomes assessment coming on line
  - ‣ Western Governors University
  - ‣ Accreditation agencies
  - ‣ Bologna Process
- ‣ New competition
  - ‣ Traditional "service areas" fair game
  - ‣ New for-profit educational providers

Pew Learning and Technology Program

▸ BYU first-year writing course-enrolls 3,400 students in about 170 sections redesigned: cost per student dropped 41%

▸ Drexel introduction to computer programming: cost per student dropped 36%

▸ Florida Gulf Coast into to fine arts, cost per student for 2,400 students is $50 compared to $132 students in traditional format

The Changing Higher Education Environment

- The "bookless" campus
- e-Libraries
  - NetLibrary
  - Questia
  - XanEdu
  - Jones e-global Library
- Services
  - 24-7 reference desks
  - Online chat book advice
  - e-Book reading devices on loan

11

The Calendar

- Rio Salado College in Phoenix

- The University of Phoenix

Old Paradigm   New

- Faculty: lecture

- Faculty responsible for content, media, assessment

- Faculty role = actor

- Student role = empty vessel

- Faculty: projects

- Faculty work as part of instructional team

- Faculty role = director

- Student role = knowledge creator

13

Old Paradigm   New

- Semester/tri-mester/quarter

- Set enrollments (e.g., once a year)

- Institutions act independently

- Varying lengths of time for learning modules

- Continuous (e.g., once every two weeks)

- Institutions act with partners

Old Paradigm

- Degrees based on credit hours

- Information transfer via classrooms

- Libraries: stacks

New Paradigm

- Degrees based on competency exams

- Information transfer anytime, anywhere

- Libraries: Starbucks

Old Paradigm   New

- Publications refereed via professional associations and commercial publishers

- Print publication the primary mode of information transfer

- Institutions publish professors' papers, drafts, notes via open Web access and sponsor professors' manuscripts to refereed Web-based open access professional journals.

16

How do we assist educators meet the challenges of the new paradigm?

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