

Facilitated Discussion: Supporting Faculty Work In and Across the Disciplines in a Technological Age

4/22/05

What have we learned or heard? Lingerin g Questions?

(gossip, unfounded rumors?)

- Roundtables & table activities in concurrent sessions were useful - Discussions went well when we all had similar purposes
- Role of technology and the rules that come into play – what Stanford does is very helpful; know who to call
- Faculty Development – what we’re doing is right on target; pre-conference very helpful
 - Focus on second tier of adopters
 - Look at who are faculty
 - Establish better means of communication with faculty
- Take one idea/approach with technology and start there; don’t incorporate many tools and ideas into teaching all at once
- We’re willing to invest in facility but not faculty – it’s insulting – as an organization, we need to bring back the importance of investing in faculty to our institutions (eg. Invest in faculty development)
- Despite challenges, people find creative ways to connect, share research, courses, and materials
- Grants seem to fund changes – how do we find and get them?
 - Look for internal sources – see center for teaching and learning
- Why disparity of arrangements of faculty development centers – sometimes learning technology centers are a part and sometimes not. Is there an ideal model?
- Begin with learning objective, not the technology – technology in service of learning
- What is “technology?”
 - Pencil, die, clickers, video...tools
 - Hagner– technology = tools invented after you were born
- Ask questions –
 - What challenges you’ve experienced in trying to use technology in the service of learning?
 - What can an institution do to help you overcome that challenge?
 - What can AAC&U do to support the institution?
- There is a tendency to make new technologies to do what you already did. Initially, we look at how to re-produce; it takes time to learn to use it to tell a story differently. Make the imaginative leap to teach in a different way. The challenge.

- Another challenge: Use tech to challenge them to think differently; eg. Use gaming to integrate learning (both faculty and students)
- Heard about gaming, simulations
- Questions –
 - **Gap between IT professionals and professors** that want to use technology. IT concerned with security, standardization, ease of use and faculty want innovation; some of the security causes barriers for new kinds of software, tools, workspace.
 - Links between technology, learning, SoTL, teaching – create a place where these issues can be linked, discussed so they all drive changes within universities – have regular communication
 - “10 things IT people need to know about professors” by Paul Hagner see June Educause
 - find an IT person who can understand both sides, communicate closely and regularly with that person – intermediaries can include IT person, academic deans, directors
 - culture of university makes a difference – a small university, in which the IT department “lives with you” it’s easier
 - problems in IT exist – explore solutions & ask why or why not
 - IT professionals ask questions of professors and pedagogy; inter-professional create committees
 - Ask candidates about infusing IT into courses & vice-versa, what is IT experience in educational settings?
 - Make IT part of faculty development team training
 - We’ve made head-way with faculty, how do I reach out to the second tier of faculty, to help them find what they need? (from IT)
 - Have the conversation - What is value added of technology to the curriculum? Are these researchable, publishable issues? When so, do publish (get a collaborator to get it done)
 - Publish in Academic Commons (academiccommons.org)
 - Peer Review – issue coming on faculty work
 - How do we support faculty once it’s proven that there is value in what they are doing?
 - How do you assess the difference technology makes?
 - Can use 10 sections and set up control groups
 - How do you deal with variables?
 - See Steve Ehrmann’s article, “Ask the right question” (?)
 - How we maintain a certain culture for innovation when there is a change of leadership?
 - Develop 5 year plan and get leaders to endorse it now, and commit resources to the plan
 - Hiring – as these folks are hired, ask about commitment
 - See how technology and AAC&U themes are incorporated. Should this remain standalone? IT should be infused in other conferences. Maybe can do both – keep this as standalone AND incorporate with other conferences

- As faculty incorporate technology, with acknowledgement that it takes extra time and energy, do these efforts get rewarded by promotion and tenure? Policies, culture, and admin - if in happy alignment, those things are recognized (depends on institution)
 - We need to continue to raise this issue
 - Find admin who can work on behalf of their faculty
- Influence the building of facilities, such that they encourage/facilitate learning and good workspaces. Architecture/design are pieces of technology.