

Collaborating Around Digital Objects
Discussion Notes
4/25/06

How can faculty be rewarded effectively?

What will it take to support faculty sharing materials across disciplines and across campuses? What institutional barriers need to be removed? What kinds of tools might be most effective?

What must be done to make tools such as the KEEP Toolkit, MERLOT, SERC most useful to faculty and to institutions? How might we combine them with other tools, like Blogs and Wikis?

What is the value of open resources such as Open Courseware, MERLOT, digital libraries vs. closed systems like course management systems?

- Issues: institutions rewarding A and hoping for B.
 - Institutional desire to socialize faculty to do A
 - System requirements vs local autonomy
 - Competing value sets
 - How do you engage people to change habits of mind?
 - Faculty discomfort presenting information created by someone else
 - Intellectual property and how it conflicts with Opensource – how do you bridge?

- Put demographics of the contributor (give credit) & promote other skills
- Differences in what is valued
- Teaching isn't valued; so how much is teaching with technology valued? Not much conversation about the first—difficult to talk about the second
- No venue to collaborate and share knowledge about teaching
- Teachers do not want to look incompetent with tech
- Need for training in new pedagogy
- Time for reflection needed
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Solutions:

- Systematic recognition of online resources
- Create spaces for talking about teaching at the campus level (usually do so at face-to-face conferences)
- Revolution – right now, time is a proxy for learning; think of learning differently
- Training – faculty need to know as little as possible to get a piece of technology to work

SETTING AN AGENDA

What will you do next week with what you have heard and learned?

E.g., about rewarding faculty? Creating spaces for collaboration? Training/motivating faculty to use technology? Starting a revolution?

- engage Center for Learning to do a World Café protocol on what learning means
- re-focus on teaching regardless of reward
- play with tools and learn from students
- remind faculty that teaching is important by writing letters to department chairs
- build a national network of classrooms

End of term?

- present learning objects to faculty
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Over the summer?