Title of Session: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning
Moderator: Roger Goodson
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Room: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning Group

RogerMG: We've had a couple of well attended sessions, but I have been noticing a drop of in interest over the past couple of sessions.

BJB2: but it does give some of us an opportunity to engage in less formal chats which I've been enjoying

DavidWe . o O (It IS a slow time of year)

RogerMG: People thinking about vacations . . .moi included:-)

DavidWe smiles

JeffC wonders if Roger has *ever* seen an administrator in this room.

RogerMG: You've got to be kidding

BJB2: normal protocol is that if no one shows after the first 15 minutes, you can leave if you have other things to do

RogerMG: I get lots of lip service from administrators . . .but little substance.

BJB2: have you been reading the exchange Jeff initiated on the wwwedu list, Roger?

RogerMG: I have been advocating to any administrator who will listen that ICT Literacy be required as hiring criteria.

RogerMG: However, on the bright side, I have been on two faculty selection committees this past few weeks and we are now getting candidates who have either taken courses online, and/or have taught online and see it as a plus.

JeffC: Here's a wild idea... make any admin hire pass the ISTE standards for administrators... no... wait... I know... that's a joke... actually... how about if they even *know* that ISTE has standards for admins... wait (still too tough)... how about if they know what one of the letters in ISTE stand for?

RogerMG: Now that's really humorous:-)

RogerMG: By the way BJ. Did you get my message regarding 'no' FROL' session in June?

JeffC: Seriously... when you talk about faculty resistance... I have a major reason why tech doesn't happen in schools. It's not faculty who don't get it (many do, and would certainly love the support in making it work)... it's the admin.

DavidWe . o O (leadership, in any institution, is key)

JeffC: They know that if they use computers for anything other than high stakes testing (what's done in my district) that they'll have to face the enormous gap in pedagogy that's going on in schools. They're not ready to revamp pedagogy and start engaging in student-centered learning.

RogerMG: However, administrators (from my experience) are in denial re: not supporting.

RogerMG: Many believe they are supportive.

JeffC: exactly... they'd rather ignore than address it.

JeffC: The superintendent in my district told me that because a lot of students (many Hispanic students) don't have tech at home, that it wouldn't be right to use it in the schools.

RogerMG: there is tech all around now, everywhere, cafes, libraries, friend's houses, etc. etc. etc.

JeffC: I can't believe I didn't throttle him right then, but instead, politely pointed out that unless they get tech literacy in schools, they're not going to get it at all and we'll be doing a disservice.

JeffC: I also pointed that out.

RogerMG: That's part of the 'I support . . .but...' routine

JeffC: But the truth is it's not all that available in schools... and it isn't supported.

JeffC: It's used for testing (if that). Our district has a dynamite tech plan (yeah... I'm tooting my own horn since I helped write it). Why do we have it? So that the district could get some state funding. Is it used? Well... our local university has pretty much cut ties with the district because of the answer to that one.

RogerMG: You know, the practically the entire business world now uses tech. to communicate, order, sell, etc. That's the world these students will be entering. Those that have tech knowledge (excl, etc.) will get jobs faster than those who do not.

RogerMG: We are still largely in the 'industrial era' of public school organization. We have yet to get to the 'Information age.'

DavidWe agrees

RogerMG: Also, all of this testing is reminiscent of Frederick Winslow Taylor, who developed the first theory of management in the late 19th century. It was all based on various forms time-motion studies as related to output. Psychologists in the 1920s (Thorndike et als) picked up on this and applied it to 'testing' in the schools as a means for determining 'output.'

RogerMG: Again . . .all part of the industrial age model of ed.

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe has always tripped over the dividing line between K-12 and higher ed.

RogerMG: Truth is . . .we're wasting our time perpetuating that model . . .and worse, we're wasting our students' time.

RogerMG: Richard Brautigan: 'my teachers could have ridden with the James Gang . . .for all the time they stole from me.'

JeffC: Well... that model exists in higher ed as well.

RogerMG: Absolutely . . .the entire system is f.....

RogerMG: sorry:-(

JeffC was reading about project based learning today and a physics professor bemoaning that his university focuses on high stakes testing instead of letting him do his thing. He's doing it anyway (fortunately).

JeffC: Hey... I think f***ed is indeed the appropriate technical term in this situation.

DavidWe smiles

JeffC: I got into education because school sucked... and it sucks worse now than 15 years ago.

DavidWe likes Richard Brautigan and especially the quote Roger used

RogerMG: You and I got into it for the same reasons Jeff.

DavidWe: You have had a net negative effect, Jeff?

DavidWe winks

JeffC: yes

JeffC: it's all my fault

JeffC: I admit it

DavidWe doesn't agree

RogerMG: I helped too:-(

DavidWe smiles

RogerMG: I read something on teacher burnout a while back . . .and it indicated that the average teacher reaches the point of burnout in about 4yrs.

DavidWe: My understanding in the past few years is that the national average teacher "life expectancy" (how long they stay in teaching) is 5 years

RogerMG: Perhaps teacher burnout is also a factor against change in many of our schools.

DavidWe: That's changed, I would say from my youth

JeffC: 5 years is right Roger, that's when many teachers drop out (if not sooner).

DavidWe . o O (or go on to other things)

RogerMG: principals last about 4 yrs . . .then they become superintendents.

JeffC: Burnout, lack of support, evil kids, focus on the wrong things in schools, lack of ability to change things... take your pick.

JeffC taught for 4 years at Richmond High in California... they made the movie "Coach Carter" based on that... too bad I had left by then (I could have met Samuel L. Jackson).

DavidWe: What's turned it from a reasonable career to the current state of affairs?

DavidWe . o O (in the 30 years since David was in high school)

RogerMG: Richmond is in my county.

RogerMG: School system certainly has (more) than its share of problems.

RogerMG: Well, folks, we do not seem to establishing a critical mass for a dialogue on FROL, so I am going to call it an evening it that's ok with all.

JeffC: I thought you were at Notre Dame Roger.

RogerMG: I am Jeff, but I live in the East Bay.

JeffC: Sorry there wasn't more interest.

JeffC: Ah... where?

JeffC: Oh... one more thing Roger.

RogerMG: Moraga

JeffC: I think we need to get people from TICAL here...

JeffC: It's an admin forum... heard of it?

RogerMG: OK . . .where is it?

JeffC: hold on... I'll get the address.

JeffC: http://www.portical.org/

RogerMG: got it. thanks Jeff.

RogerMG: Jeff. Just created a shortcut to the URL you sent. Thanks again.

LynneW joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Lynne

LynneW waves back

RogerMG: Hi Lynne.

JeffC: ok

LynneW: Hello

RogerMG: How are things in Portand.

LynneW wonders how Roger knows Lynne is from Portland

LynneW: Rainy

LynneW: A little slower paced.

RogerMG: Because of the rain:-)

LynneW: Yep and summer semester hasn't started yet.

RogerMG: I'm not teaching this summer at all.

LynneW: Would it be appropriate to ask for a quick recap?

DavidWe waves to Lynne

DavidWe: Hi, Lynne

LynneW waves to Jeff and David

RogerMG: Jeff . . . or David. Would you care to provide a recap of our group rant?

LynneW: Oh...if it is ranting....I can hold my own (smile)

RogerMG: We've been bemoaning the sorry state of public ed., non-(tech) supportive administrators, how little has changed in ed. since the late 19th cent. in terms of its organization . . .care to join in?

SusanR joined the room.

LynneW: (Hear the Sound of Music) Oh, where to begin...

RogerMG: Hi Susan.

RogerMG: That's sort of where Jeff was:-)

LynneW: I noticed your link on Connectivism. I am enthralled with that learning theory.

SusanR waves

LynneW waves a big hello

SusanR listens

RogerMG: I think it is where ed. should be going Lynne.

DavidWe waves to Susan

LynneW: Roger, I agree whole-heartedly.

JeffC: hmmm... recap

RogerMG: ok

LynneW: I assume we all know the problem...any solutions offered?

JeffC: well... lessee... school sucks... admins don't support it because they don't get it and don't want to admit there are big problems with pedagogy that tech could address... and they prefer to use tech only for high stakes testing and complying with NCLB crap.

LynneW: Any ideas how to address the structural, organizational, and leadership challenges to moving forward?

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe . o O (story at 11!)

JeffC: aside from getting rid of the admins?

RogerMG: There is also a link there dealing with 'systems' that may offer some ideas about the problem(s) Lynne, and what's necessary for change . .

JeffC: I think the consensus is that we're pretty well doomed.

LynneW thinks that is a dark and dreary prediction

SusanR: maybe Google Jockeying is the answer...

SusanR:
http://www.masternewmedia.org/news/2006/05/19/internet_searching_graduates_to_classroom.htm

RogerMG: Ohh come on Jeff...this isn't the Little Big Horn.

JeffC: yup... we're all getting scalped...

DavidWe holds on to his hat

RogerMG: <--is balding

JeffC has been a Google Jockey for quite a while now... unfortunately I think I killed my horse the other day.

EmilyW joined the room.

RogerMG: Hi Emily

SusanR: Hi Emily

LynneW: Susan, I had not seen or thought of this. I like the idea a great deal.

LynneW waves to Emily

EmilyW: Hi

LynneW: Having a Google Jockey in the classroom can be great modeling for a tech phobe teacher

RogerMG: Is anyone else here working on the TI Festival?

SusanR agrees

EmilyW: I am helping with it

LynneW is teaching that day

SusanR: I am Roger

LynneW can help with readiness duties during the month of June

JeffC: I am

RogerMG: <---leading a group (hopefully not to The Little Big Horn)

BJB2: we'll need to establish a time for you, Roger

RogerMG: OK

RogerMG: Getting near time to end this, we have already pretty much summarized, so, any closing thoughts?

DavidWe: Keep Hope Alive!

RogerMG: Yes Jeff . . .please do!!

RogerMG: ...and keep you hair.

DavidWe nods

LynneW: Please come to my Web 2.0 Tools for Teachers session in ASO!

DavidWe: I will

BJB2: thanks, Roger