Going Digital: The Role of Teaching, Learning and Technology Centers

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University of Pittsburgh

April 14, 2018
ACAO Digital Fellows Meeting
New Orleans

University of Pittsburgh

Pitt | UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Campus Climate: Key Challenges facing a Teaching Center
- Role of a Teaching Center
  - Scope
    - Organizational Models
    - Partners
- Some Pitt Initiatives

About me…

30+ years in higher ed (really?)
Bridging technology and pedagogy and people

Issues facing our institutions

- Not unique
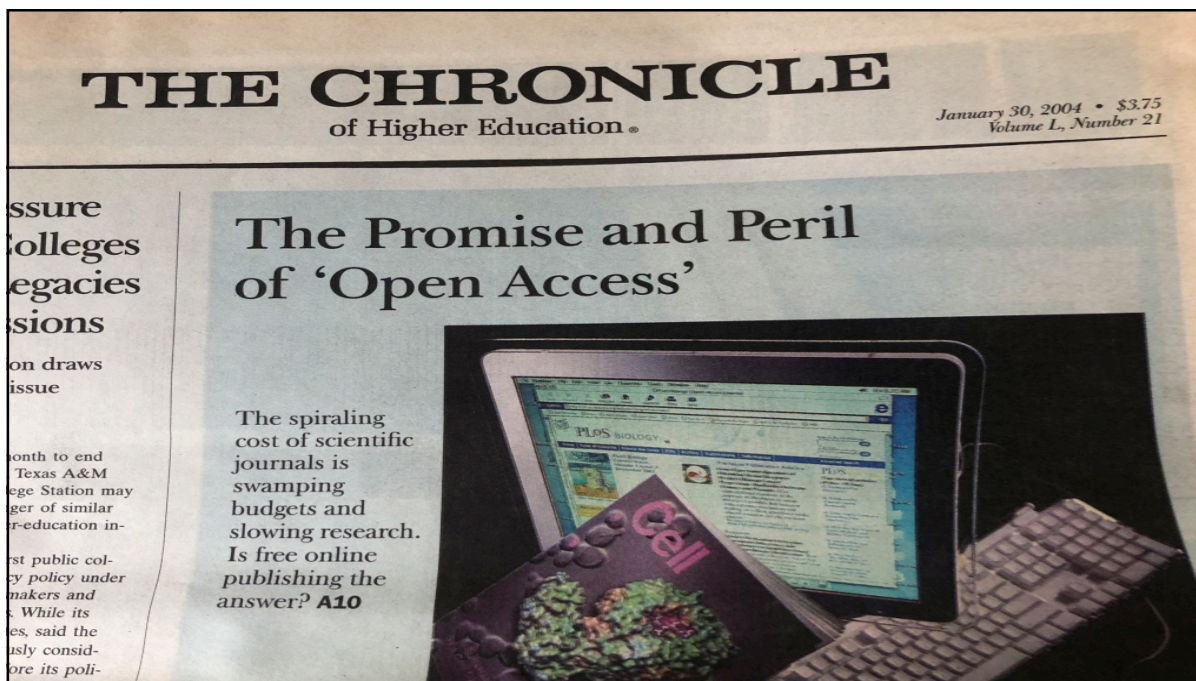- Many not new

EDUCAUSE 2018
Key Issues in T&L

1. Academic Transformation
2. Accessibility
3. Faculty Development
4. Privacy and Security
5. Digital and Information Literacies
6. iPASS
7. Instructional Design
8. Online and Blended Learning
9. Evaluation of Tech-based instructional innovations
10. Open Education

EDUCAUSE 2018
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10. **Open Education**

THE CHRONICLE of HIGHER EDUCATION
of Higher Education ®

January 30, 2004 • $3.75
Volume L, Number 21

The Promise and Peril of 'Open Access'

The spiraling cost of scientific journals is swamping budgets and slowing research. Is free online publishing the answer? **A10**

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Use of Free Textbooks Is Rising, but Barriers Remain

By Beth McMurtrie DECEMBER 19, 2017

A growing number of professors are replacing the traditional textbook with an openly licensed one, according to a survey released on Tuesday. But their overall numbers remain small — and widespread adoption of the practice could remain out of reach unless key barriers are overcome.

"Opening the Textbook: Educational Resources in U.S. Higher Education, 2017," surveyed 2,700 full- and part-time faculty members to measure, among other things, their use of open educational resources, commonly called OER. It is the third such survey produced by the Babson Survey Research Group in recent years.

Over that time the share of faculty members adopting open-licensed textbooks rose from 5 percent in 2015 to 9 percent today, with a higher rate of use in large introductory-level classes. Familiarity with openly licensed materials is

Gartner®

Top 10 strategic technologies impacting higher education 2018

1. **Digital Credentials**
2. **Predictive Analytics**
3. Nudge Tech
4. **Next-Generation Security**
5. Virtual Reality (VR)/Augmented Reality (AR) Comeback

6. Hybrid Integration Platforms
7. Digital Assessment
8. Blockchain
9. Next-Generation SIS
10. AI Conversational Interface

Issues facing my Center right now

- Large Enrollment Course Transformation
- Assessment of Teaching
- OER
- Diversity in the Curriculum
- Accessibility
- Faculty Incentives
- Next Generation LMS
- Competency-based learning, online learning, alternative credentials
- Assessing our Impact

Role(s) of a Teaching Center

- What We Do
- Organizational Models
- Importance of Partners

The National Survey of Campus Centers for Teaching and Learning 2015

www.campuscomputing.net

- Many Centers are new: a third were formed after 2010
- Most Center directors have academic backgrounds and many have also have (full-time or part- time) faculty status
- Most Centers report to provosts and academic affairs offices
- Digital course resources (OER, Third-party software), adaptive learning, and competency-based learning appear to be low priorities for most Centers
- Pre-tenured faculty are the largest group of Center clients.
- Not much collaboration with academic departments and other campus units

Pitt | UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Launched in 1996 as the

CENTER FOR
**Instructional Development
& Distance Education**

(after major reorganization)

- Renamed in Fall 2016
  University Center for Teaching and Learning
- Organizational Evolution over time

~65 staff, ~45 students, 2 post-docs, faculty fellows

Mission

*The mission of The Teaching Center is to **inspire excellence and innovation** in teaching, learning and scholarly activities at the University of Pittsburgh.*

Pitt | UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
TEACHING AND LEARNING

Key Areas of Strategic Focus

Teaching Support (10)

Educational Technology (15)

Assessment (2)

Online Learning (10)

Learning Environments (5)

Academic Services (20)

Admin (4)

Teaching Support

- 1:1 Consultations
- Workshops/Seminars
- SoTL/Research
- Graduate Student Teaching Initiative
- Faculty Learning Communities
  - New Faculty, Online/Hybrid, Diversity, Highly Engaged Professor, SoTL, Assessment

- Center for Mentoring
- Center for Communication
- Center for Diversity

Educational Technology – LMS and beyond

Catchbox: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEIMnTR4shw&t=6s

Assessment of Teaching

In this course I have learned:

○ Much less than in most courses I've taken
○ Somewhat less than in most courses I've taken
○ About the same as in most courses I've taken
○ Somewhat more than in most courses I've taken
○ Much more than in most courses I've taken

The grade I expect in this course is:

○ A
○ B
○ C
○ D
○ F
○ Other

Online Programs

Learning Spaces

- Active Learning
- Flexibility
- Acoustics and Lighting
- Technology
- Natural Light
- Study

Nationality Rooms

French Room

Media Credenza
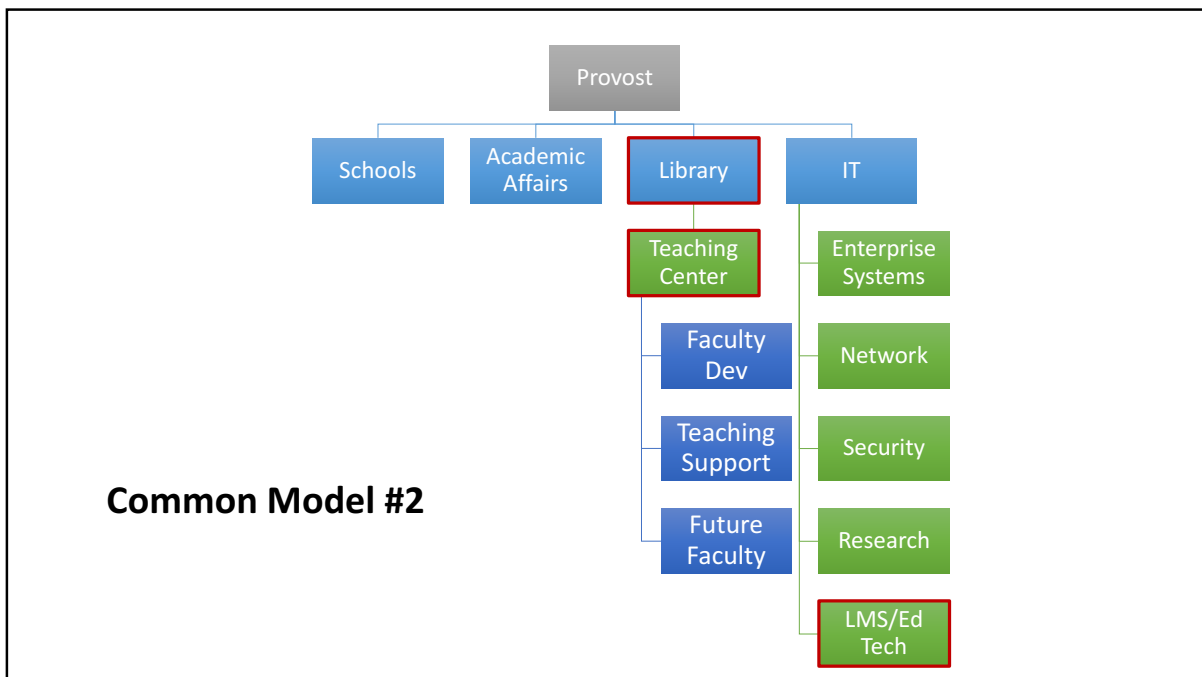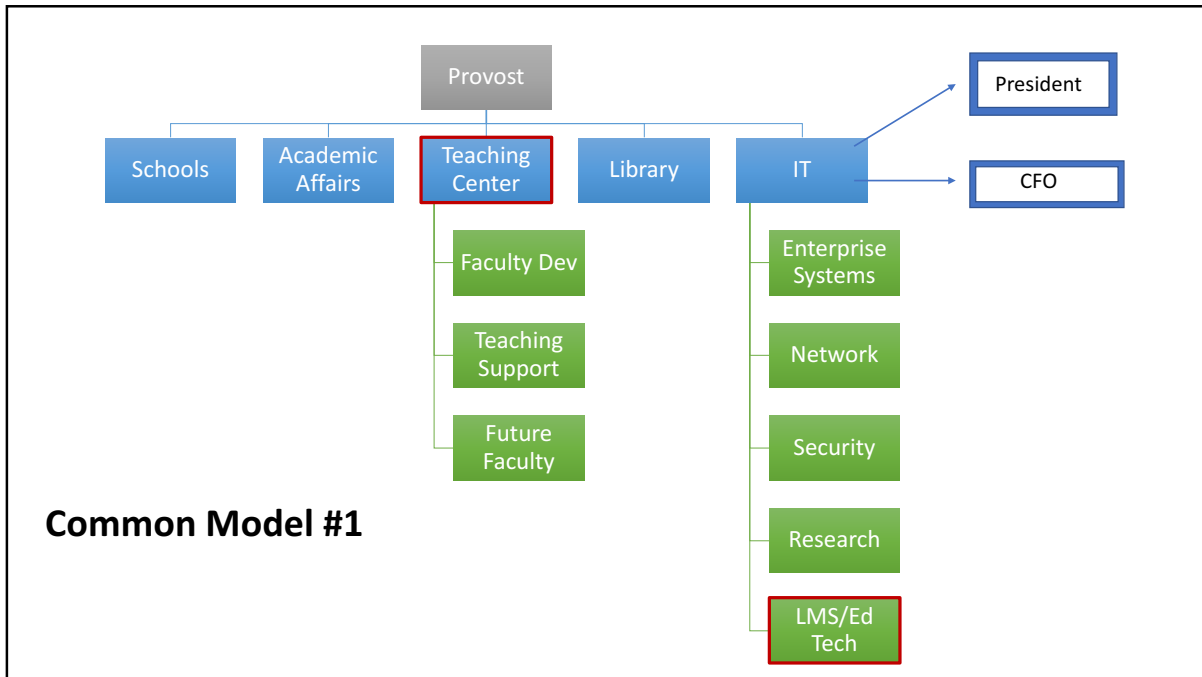
Academic Services

- Testing Center
- Social Media, Newsletters, Publications
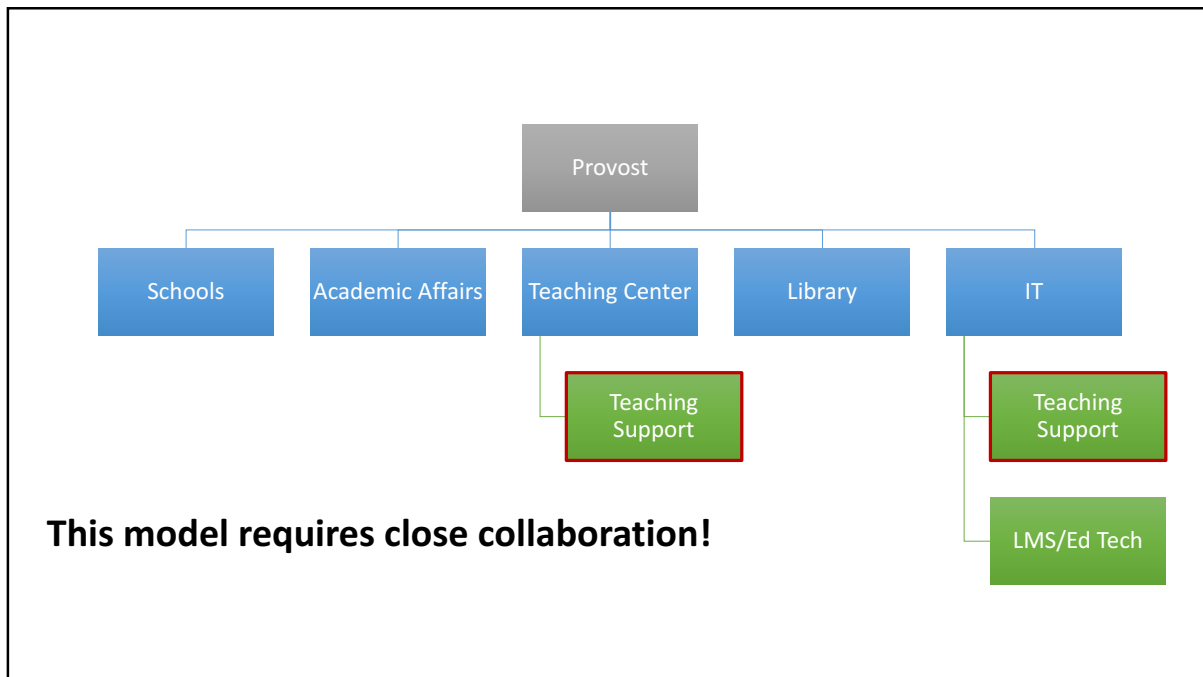- Media Production
- Special Events
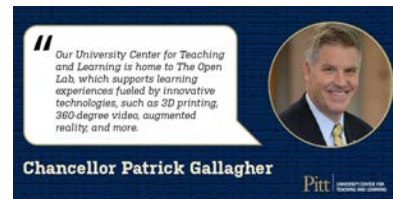
Organizational Models – Where do we fit?

No "right way"
Cultural Fit
Changes over time

Common Model #1

**Common Model #2**

This model requires close collaboration!

What I know…

- Support for good teaching must be the primary focus
- Technology is an enabler
- We can no longer separate the technology from the pedagogy
  - Necessary for good faculty support
  - Critical in the hiring process
- An integrated (pedagogy & ed tech) model works well for Pitt

University of Pittsburgh · Organization
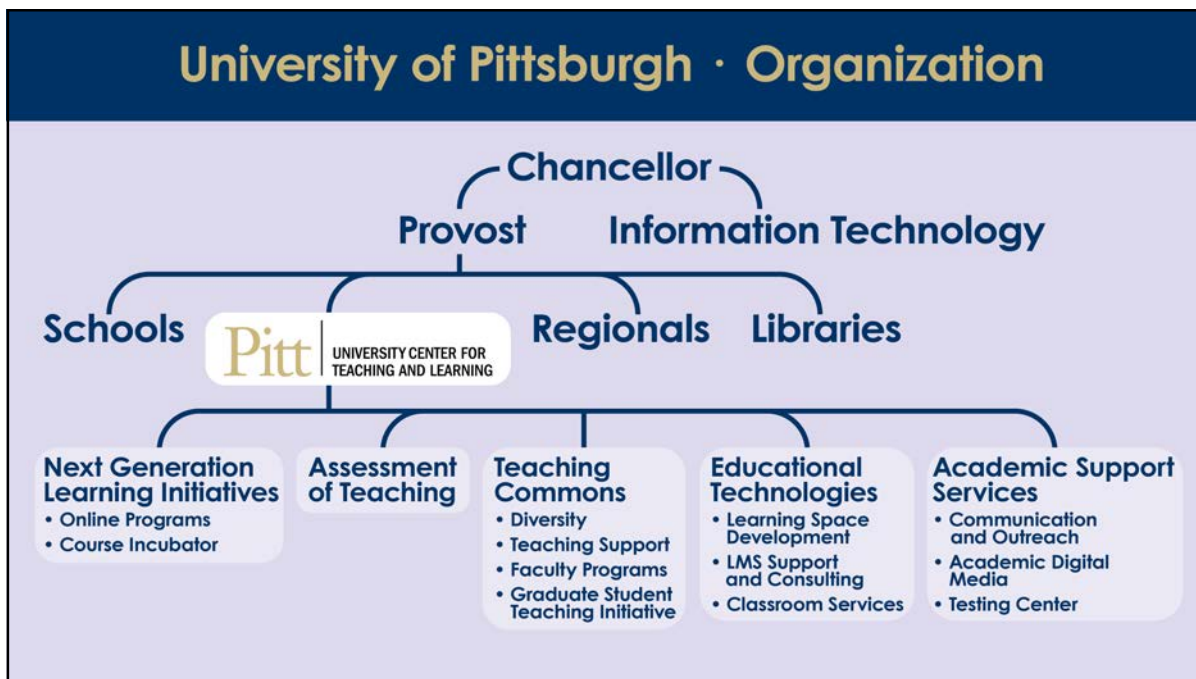
Important Partners

- President
- Chief Academic Officer

Provost and Sr. Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson

Chancellor Patrick Gallagher

The National Survey of Campus Centers for Teaching and Learning 2015

www.campuscomputing.net

MAJOR RECOMMENDATION : Connect the (academic) dots:

- 80% of the Centers report to provosts and academic affairs
- 57% of Center directors have an academic background
- 63% of Center directors have some kind of academic appointment Center directors report low engagement with academic units

Engage with provosts to stand up and stand with Center directors as a key strategy to promote innovation

Important Partners

Deans & the Office of the Provost
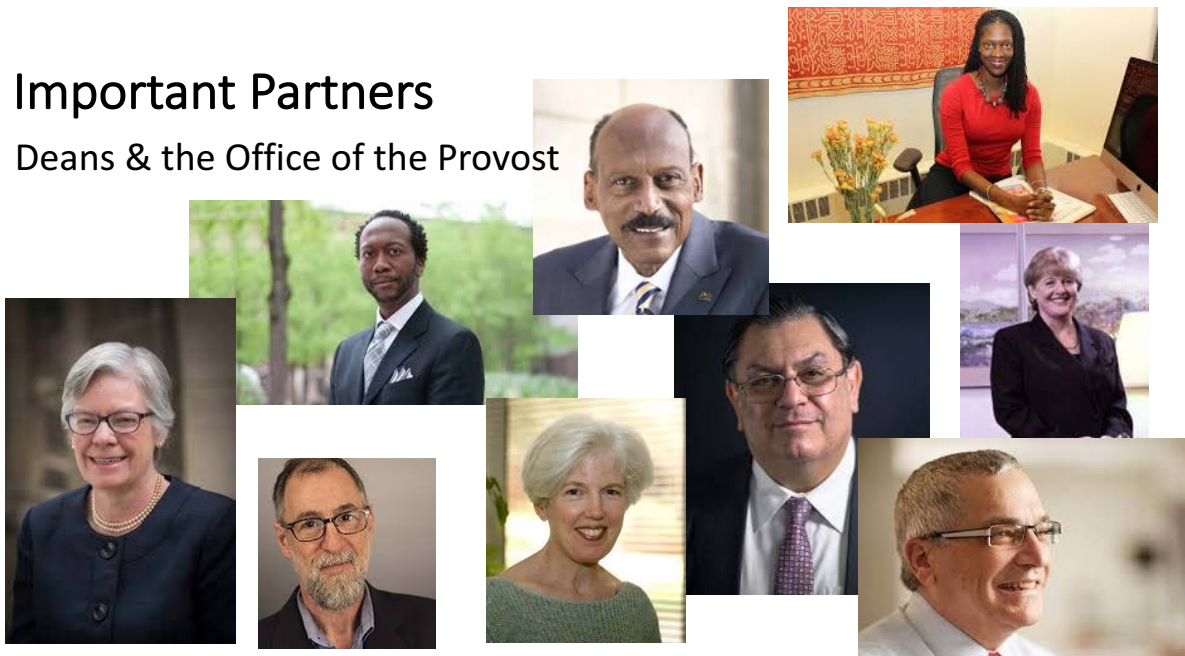
Important Partners

• University Libraries

Kornelia Tancheva, Director
University Library System

More Important Partners

• We are not the only
  TLT Center!
• Collaboration is key

Teaching &
Learning Exchange

Teaching Center
Humanities
Nursing
LRDC 1963
Medicine
EERC 2011
dB-SERC 2014
Pharmacy
Social Sciences
WISER 1994
Regional Campuses

Important Partners

• Faculty

2018 University Senate Plenary
"Teaching Today for Tomorrow"

TEACHING PARTNERS
Pitt | UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldNrjQEBwUg

Important Partners

• Our Students

Important Partners

Important Partners

Back to my priority list…

- Large Enrollment Courses
- Assessment of Teaching
- OER
- Diversity in the Curriculum
- Accessibility
- Faculty Incentives
- Next Generation LMS
- Competency-based learning, online learning, alternative credentials
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http://sgb.pitt.edu/government/
governing-documents/

Highlights:

- Pitt has the highest in-state tuition in the country for public universities.
- Students take on additional debt to pay for textbooks, **or**
- Students "undercut their own learning" by not purchasing textbooks.
- Pitt "should do everything in its power to control the cost of higher education".
- This resolution calls on **faculty** to expand use of OER, **admin** to support with grants and incentives, the **library** to help with resources, and the **government** to support the Affordable College Textbook Act.

Collister, Lauren. Pitt University Senate Plenary Address 3/27/2018

B.R.2018.01

CALLING UPON THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH TO ADOPT OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: SGB President Max Kneis, SGB VP & Chief of Cabinet Krishani Patel, and Sarah Grguras
CO-SPONSORED BY: Board Members Ciara Barry, Ian Callahan, Ami Fall, Maddie Guido, Zuri Kent-Smith, Nihita Manem, Alex Spenceley

09 JANUARY 2018
President Kneis introduced the following resolution; which was read for the first time.

16 JANUARY 2018
Read the second time and voted on.

A RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE ADOPTION OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

1	WHEREAS,	the cost of college textbooks is often a major
2		affordability issue for students, who take on additional
3		debt to pay for textbooks, or undercut their own
4		learning by forgoing the purchase of textbooks;
5	WHEREAS,	The College Board places the annual cost of books and
6		supplies at $1,250[1] with individual books costing
7		upwards of $300;

4/15/18

LMS Adoption – at 74% in Fall 2017

Active Courses in Blackboard Fall Term
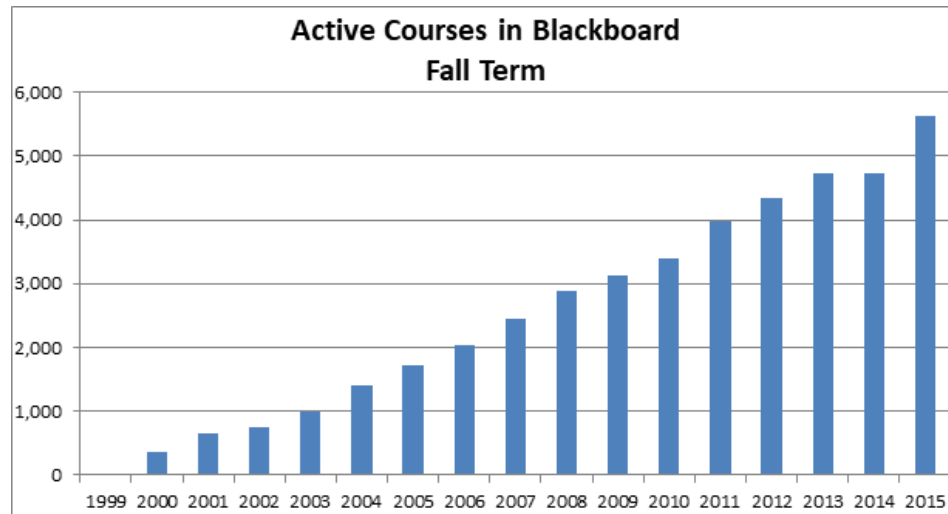
Next Gen LMS?

Cost to change?

Graduate Student Teaching Initiative

- Credentials in Pedagogy
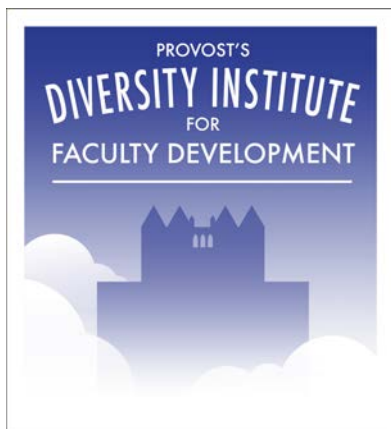
2017 Inaugural Awards for Diversity in the Curriculum

4th Annual Event!

For Faculty, by Faculty

Discussion/Questions?

Two good books