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2025 Conversation - 3/5/2013

The College at Brockport

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College of 2025
At the Irelands – March 5, 2013

Present:

Steve Ireland – History

Susan Ireland

Mary Jo Orzech – Library

Jeffery Snarr – Psychology

Barbara Thomsson – CSTEP/McNair

Elizabeth Thorpe – Communication

Wanda Wakefield – History

Nancy Washer – Delta College

Steve is leading the discussion – *What will Brockport be like by 2025?*

Where have we been – where are we?

- 1988 - College has come far, as far as where we want to be – Successful, Middle States, scholarships, activities, engagement, formal business school, grad school – we are growing well!
- Lacking in how we treat QAR – tenure track faculty are endangered and not replaced
- Mission statement highlights the distinguished faculty but what have we lost? Some very pleased that reliance on adjuncts is down significantly.
- The requirement to have PhD even for QAR will increase quality – but it needs to be expected that these will turn into tenure track
- Commitment of faculty as the place they want to be rather than a place on their way up Brockport makes it possible to be here for the students and do our research

From our end about our students

- Students like opportunities for travel, engagement, being connected to the campus. Parents are less respectful of what the students are attempting and need more support from them.
- The library in 10 years? Our library is expanding as far as roles of librarians and the technology to make articles open access and incorporating e-publishing – just in time need. Lots of opportunities to embrace new collaborations – making primary and secondary materials more and more available.
- The resources are wonderful and overwhelming. How will we let students use them well and incorporate faculty as well.
- Big publishers push on-line sources and that is a balancing act - but what happens if we are “unplugged” for any length of time – we are becoming dependent.
- What about textbooks on-line? Out of control costs are driving this – customizing text books on-line may be the answer – why not if as effective??

If you could construct a college in 2025 – what would it look like?

- Many students will expect to attend much of college from home.
- We have been slow to adopt technology over classrooms – faculty is resistant and the class discussion is absolutely essential and cannot happen on line. BUT there are many students who will not participate because their lives will not accommodate.
- Faculty will have to commit more time to these distance learning requirements – it will require you to be available 24/7. These types of learning also require high commitment of the students as well.
- Maybe we should be pushing the pendulum back because of the self esteem movement – education has fallen into the trap of homogenizing education because we want everyone to feel good about themselves
- What is a degree? Can we also offer an education which is the higher goal – Can we do both and how? Who are we trying to teach and how can we do it or do we want to? How can we be sure we are not catering to the haves or have nots.
- Why not use more of metro – teach undergrad general eds. there – Why make it so difficult to go between them – Why this great divide – we need to decrease this
- We have strong programs with outstanding facilities – Why are we such a secret? Can we promote sports and athletics to people who have been excluded elsewhere – programs for non-athletes. KSSPE could develop programming for everyone! Not just athletes who come in that way – but the rest of the population.
- Angel is a great asset and used often in some courses – how is they being used in courses across disciplines? Is there resistance to using the technology already? How can we progress if the faculty is not using what we have? How many are fully using Angel?
- There is a group who are not and will not use the technology and so we have a mix that can work if we can create hybrid and gel faculty to do some on-line education – textbook manufactures know this and are doing it.
- Maybe we are trying to educate too many people – maybe we need more trade schools and need to stop squeezing people into one mold – we are trying to train thinkers who need to fit into the world of work and career – are we training people to also find work – loan debt is astounding.
- How do we prepare them for the real world? Research skills are critical. They need to write, think critically, synthesize into make an argument
- Are we falling back into a liberal arts vs. Professional degrees dichotomy? We need to be open enough to do both
- We need to teach three critical skills – write, reason, articulate – are we still doing that across disciplines? Across departments? Within departments? We need a reinvigoration of our cultural tradition that has been set aside.
- We will provide a way for ambitious people to progress by arming them with skills – write, think, speak in a logical, understandable, convincing ways.