BLEAK HOUSE

the death of in-class undergraduate instruction in academic libraries
OUTLINE

• SETTING THE STAGE: THE MODERN (NEOLIBERAL) ACADEMY
• TRANSFORMATIONS IN APPROACHES TO TEACHING
• ACADEMIC LIBRARIES RESPOND
• MANIFESTATIONS IN OUR DAILY WORK
• "UNIVERSITAS MAGISTRORUM ET SCHOLARIUM"
• TIED TO RELIGIOUS CHARTERS & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
• PREPARE FOR THE PROFESSIONS
• DISCOVERY & DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE
• PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES "FOR THE MASSES" IN THE 19TH CENTURY
• INFLUENCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION
• EDUCATION FOR THE SOCIAL GOOD

SHIFTING VALUES

The early & modern university
NEOLIBERALISM AS AN ECONOMIC THEORY/MODEL

“... holds that the social good will be maximized by maximizing the reach and frequency of market transactions, and it seeks to bring all human action into the domain of the market.” (Harvey, 2015).
SOME COMMON CHARACTERISTICS:

• AUSTERITY: REAL AND IMAGINED

• MONETIZED OR MEASURED CONCEPTION OF PERFORMANCE

• MANAGERIALISM

• OVERWHELMING FOCUS ON (ECONOMIC) EFFICIENCY AND OUTCOMES
  • Goodhart’s Law

SHIFTING VALUES

Neoliberal creep
SHifting VALUES

Neoliberal creep

GOODHART'S LAW
WHEN A MEASURE BECOMES A TARGET,
IT CEASES TO BE A GOOD MEASURE

IF YOU MEASURE PEOPLE ON... NUMBER OF NAILS MADE
THEN YOU MIGHT GET 1000'S OF TINY NAILS

WEIGHT OF NAILS MADE
A FEW GIANT, HEAVY NAILS

“...[it] reflects wider neo-liberal pressures and is characterized by a changing perception of the nature and purpose of universities; a differential evaluation of various kinds of knowledge; a commodification of teaching and research; a focus on commercialization; an audit culture with increased stress on budgetary control; a decline in the perceived trustworthiness of professionals; a strengthening of executive decision making and a reliance on appointment rather than election of decision makers.” (as qtd. In O’Conner, 2014)
• REQUIREMENT TO MEET DEMANDS FOR TANGIBLE VALUE
• FOCUS ON MEASURABLE DELIVERABLES
• MANAGERIAL APPROACH TO ACADEMIC WORK

• TRADITIONAL "MESSY" SCHOLARLY OUTPUTS REPLACED WITH:
  • PRACTICES EXPRESSED THROUGH THE LENS OF ECONOMICS & MEASUREMENT
  • OVERRELIANCE ON TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND PRODUCTS TO QUANTIFY "EXCELLENCE" IN TEACHING
  • RESEARCH: DEMONSTRATING VALUE THROUGH SCORES THAT (INACURRATLEY MEASURE)
    • % OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION (HEGEMONIC NATURE INHERENT IN THE NEOLIBERAL MODEL)
    • # OF PUBLICATIONS IN TOP-TIER/IF JOURNALS
• "QUALITY CULTURE" INSPIRED BY TQM.
SHIFTING VALUES
Teaching redefined

- EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING REPLACED BY NEED TO BE COMPETITIVE
- REDEFINITION OF EXCELLENCE IN ORDER TO MEASURE & QUANTIFY
  - "EXCHANGE-VALUE" PRIORITIZED OVER "USE-VALUE"
  - REGIME OF OPERATIONALIZATION & MEASUREMENT
- COMMODIFICATION OF TEACHING & LEARNING
- EXCELLENCE IN NEOLIBERAL CONTEXT
  - HIGHER SCORES > HIGHER RANKING > HIGHER FUNDING
  - OFTEN TIED TO TECHNOLOGY: GREATER SPREAD WITH LESS HUMAN INVESTMENT
SHIFTING VALUES

Stepping Out of the Rat Race

Saying it wants to "again become a place where talent feels valued and nurtured," Ghent University overhauls its system for faculty evaluation to de-emphasize quantitative metrics and annual progress reports. Professors will be asked about their goals and what they are proud of.

By Elizabeth Redden // January 23, 2019
• DE-EMPHASIS ON HUMAN INTERACTION ($)
• RAPID ADOPTION OF SELF-SERVICE TECHNOLOGIES
• "LESS MESSY" : DISTRIBUTED AND TECH-ENABLED
• IMPLICATION FOR CORE PROFESSIONAL PILLAR: TEACHING & INSTRUCTION
How do these trends manifest themselves in our daily work?
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY IS AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING, RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, CREATIVE ACTIVITY, SERVICE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.
TO CREATE, PRESERVE, COMMUNICATE AND APPLY KNOWLEDGE, CONTRIBUTING TO THE CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF MANITOBA, CANADA AND THE WORLD.
### Facilitate Learning Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competencies</th>
<th>Examples of Best Practices</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provides individual research support to faculty, students, and staff</td>
<td>Scheduling meetings with students to discuss a specific research assignment</td>
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<td>Promotes the integration of information literacy concepts and skills into the curriculum</td>
<td>Writing and maintaining instruction plans that include curriculum maps and sharing with liaison faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develops effective instructional sessions and provides diverse learning opportunities</td>
<td>Developing tutorials, guides, and other learning objects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educates our community to be ethical and informed creators and users of information</td>
<td>Meeting with classroom faculty to establish learning outcomes</td>
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<td>Directing faculty and students to the libraries’ copyright and fair use resources</td>
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THE STUDENT SUCCESS LIBRARIAN DESIGNS AND DELIVERS DYNAMIC AND RELEVANT LEARNING RESOURCES, TOOLS AND ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS BY USERS AT ANY LEVEL OF STUDY AND ACROSS DISCIPLINES.

U of Ottawa, Student Success Librarian, Partnership Job Board Feb 12th, 2019.
THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE LIBRARY SEEKS AN ENERGETIC, STUDENT-FOCUSED, INNOVATIVE, TECHNOLOGY-SAVVY, AND CREATIVE INSTRUCTOR, HAVING KEEN INTERESTS IN INFORMATION LITERACY INSTRUCTION
I was given extra pay to teach the course as an adjunct instructor, so any time I spent developing the course, planning lessons and grading assignments occurred during evening hours and on weekends. The class meeting time fell during regular business hours, so I arrived at work early, stayed late, or worked through lunch...
15% receive release time to teach credit courses
40% consider teaching credit courses a librarian duty

The Professor-Librarian: Academic Librarians Teaching Credit-Bearing Courses
NOW....YOUR THOUGHTS


O’CONNOR, PAT. MANAGEMENT AND GENDER IN HIGHER EDUCATION. IRISH SOCIETY. MANCHESTER: MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2014.


