Comparing Educational Paradigms

The Instruction Paradigm

The Learning Paradigm

Mission and Purposes

Provide/deliver instruction Produce learning

Transfer knowledge from faculty to students Elicit student discovery and construction of

knowledge

Offer courses and programs

Create powerful learning environments

Improve the quality of instruction
Achieve access for diverse students

Improve the quality of learning
Achieve success for diverse students

Criteria for success

Inputs, resources Learning and student-success outcomes

Quality of entering students Quality of exiting students

Curriculum development, expansion Learning technologies development,

expansion

Quantity and quality of resources

Enrollment, revenue growth

Quantity and quality of outcomes

Aggregate learning growth, efficiency

Quality of faculty, instruction Quality of students, learning

Teaching/Learning Structures

Atomistic; parts prior to whole

Time held constant, learning varies

Holistic; whole prior to parts

Learning held constant, time varies

50-minutes lecture, 3-unit course Learning environments

Classes start/end at same time
One teacher, one classroom
Independent disciplines, departments

Environment ready when student is
Whatever learning experience works
Cross discipline/department collaboration

Covering material Specified learning results
End-of-course assessment Pre/during/post assessments
Grading within classes by instructors External evaluations of learning

Private assessment Public assessment

Degree equals accumulated credit hours

Degree equals demonstrated knowledge and

skills

Learning Theory

Knowledge exists "out there" Knowledge exists in each person's mind and

is shaped by individual experience

Knowledge comes in "chunks" and "bits" Knowledge is constructed, created, and

delivered by instructors "gotten"

Learning is cumulative and linear Learning is a nesting and interacting of

frameworks

Fits the storehouse of knowledge metaphor
Learning is teacher centered and controlled
"Live" teacher, "live" students required
"Active" learner required, but not "live"

teacher

The classroom and learning are competitive

and individualistic

Talent and ability are rare

Learning environments and learning are cooperative, collaborative, and supportive

Talent and ability are abundant

Productivity/Funding

Definition of productivity: cost per hour of Definition of productivity: cost per unit of

instruction per student learning per student

Funding for hours of instruction Funding for learning outcomes

Nature of Roles

Faculty are primarily lecturers Faculty are primarily designers of learning

methods and environments

Faculty and students act independently and in Faculty and students work in teams with each

isolation other and other staff

Teachers classify and sort students

Teachers develop every student's

competencies and talents

Staff serve/support faculty and the process of All staff are educators who produce student

instruction learning and success

Any expert can teach Empowering learning is challenging and

complex

Line governance; independent actors

Shared governance; teamwork

("From teaching to learning: A new paradigm for undergraduate education," Robert Barr and John Tagg, *Change*, November/December 1995, pp. 13-25)