Adoption of e-Learning in Higher Education – Strategies and Issues

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Pacific Neighborhood Conference
PNC 2010 Annual Conference
1-3 December 2010
Education technology in the 20th century

Analog technology
- Radio
- Television
  - Distance education
- Audio and video recording
- Photocopier
- Fax
Education technology in the 20th century

Digital technology
- Text editor
- Email
- Computer Aided Instruction (CAI)
- Student record management
- Web based services
Digital Campus

- E-learning
- ERP (Student, HR, Finance, etc.)
- Messaging (E-mail, IM, Blog, VoIP, etc.)
- Infrastructure (Network, Servers, Storage, Security)
Adoption of e-Learning in higher education

An institutional effort requiring high level
- Leadership
- Commitment
- Strategy
- Support
City University of Hong Kong -

University’s strategic plan 2003-08:

“CityU has always recognized the importance of information technologies in teaching, research and administration.”
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Information Services Strategic Plan 2005-2010
“Focuses on using information technology to improve communications and access to information in support of student learning, research and administrative operations.”

Four key areas:
- A Unified e-Learning Platform
- Knowledge Management
- Institutional Data Management
- Web and Portal Strategy
First emphasis of the ISSP 2005-2010
A student-centred learning environment supported by technology.
Consolidation of resources with cross-functional support for a single e-learning platform for the University.
Encouragement for teachers to extend their learning resources in a step-wise fashion.
E-Learning at CityU

Cross functional support from:

- Academic Departments
- Education Development Office
- Academic Records and Regulations Office
- Library
- Enterprise Solutions Unit
- Computing Services Centre
Adoption of e-Learning in higher education

Change:
- Maintaining interest and relevance
- Keep up with technological advances
- Renew institutional commitment
Adoption of e-Learning in higher education

Change:
IT has the potential to transform our entire education system in the years ahead. Some evidence:
- Wider adoption of blended learning
- More open learning spaces instead of classrooms
- More collaborative work through social learning
- More emphasis on information literacy
- The “Next Gen Learning Challenge” in USA
Our vision for the future ... starting from now
Support for eLearning

Institution Champion + Steering Group

Central Students & Staff Record Keeping

Pedagogical Design + User Support + Training

Departments + Schools/Faculties

Library Support for Academic Content

Central Computer & Network Support

Support structure for eLearning

eLearning is a collective mission!
The purpose of eLearning

Leveraging technology to enhance student’s learning!
Broad Strategic eLearning Priorities @ HKBU

• Enhancement for technical infrastructure and technical support
• Enhancement for efficiency and effectiveness of the institutional processes to support objectives and boost benefits in all other areas
• Design, delivery and maintenance of effective teaching and learning
• Support for research-based or enquiry-based learning
• Enhancement for excellence in research and scholarship of teaching

(Source: Enhanced Learning and Teaching Using Technology: An Institutional Strategy approved by Senate in June 2010)
The eLearning Platform @ HKBU

- Supported by the Teaching Development Grant TDG
- SAMS started the eLearning platform with WebCT, then switched to Moodle
- VPRIA took up eLearning responsibility in 2008
- The QAC affirms HKBU’s development of an eLearning strategy to improve IT services and facilities, and to enhance programme delivery where deemed appropriate (Affirmation 4)
- A prioritised function of the revamped CHTL from February 2010
- Establishment of the eLearning Support Team:
  - CHTL
  - ITO
  - Library
- Revamped eLearning platform - BU eLearning 1.0 - launched in August 2010
Current eLearning Initiatives

- Enhancing the user experience and enriching the T&L functionalities in Moodle @ HKBU via engaging pedagogies.
Learning-centred eLearning Capabilities

- Enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of T&L @ HKBU by leveraging on eLearning technologies.

Webinar

Video Lecture Capture

New UI, New Functions:
Wiki, Library Toolkit…
“Round the Corner “
eLearning Initiatives

• Design and delivery of effective T&L pedagogies @ HKBU leveraged on eLearning technologies.
Amy Chan,
Student of Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) Communications
Location: Grass Lawn @ Baptist Road Campus
Activity: Attending class via webinar - CTV1680
Sammy Cheng,
Student of Master of Business Administration
Location: Flea Market at Yau Ma Tei
Activity: Downloading lecture podcast - BUS7154
Vision 2020

Quality Teaching & Learning

To enhance quality teaching and learning on the HKBU campus, we will maintain a comprehensive quality assurance mechanism that will ensure that programmes and courses are benchmarked to agreed standards. **We also commit to adding high value to our students through an excellent teaching and learning environment.** In addition, we will place more emphasis on improving the attractiveness and agility of HKBU programmes in order to recruit high quality students.

To do so, the University will **strengthen staff development, raise students' proficiency in English and Putonghua, increase student satisfaction in learning**, and ensure that students who complete their studies at HKBU are **equipped with the seven graduate attributes.**
Potential Uses of the eLearning Platform to support Vision 2020

- Language Teaching & Learning
- Student Orientation / Student Advisement
- Programme management
- Research collaboration
- External collaboration
- Hostel management
- Departmental communications
- Committees administration
Visions of eLearning Initiatives

Value Added Students’ Learning and Teaching, Anytime, Anywhere!
Something to Consider

• Maintaining interests and relevance
• Ensuring system stability
• Timeline for staying with existing system or switching to new one
• Continuity & succession
  – Support
  – Resources
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Thank You!