Visions Worth Working Toward
Learning On Line ‘98
Building the Virtual University

Virginia Tech
Roanoke, Virginia

June 18, 1998
Steven W. Gilbert
President
The TLT Group

AAHE’s Teaching, Learning, & Technology Affiliate
AGENDA

- Perspective, Myths
- Past, Present, Future
- Vision(s) Worth Working Toward
  - TLTR & TLTG Vision “Cube”
- Conclusion/Commercial
PERSPECTIVE

TLT Group Approach

It is more important to build the future than to predict it.
THANKS -- TLT GROUP FOUNDING SPONSORS

- Compaq
- Microsoft
- Real Education
- SCT
MYTHS (cont.)

3. You’ll be satisfied with your personal computer for several years.

4. The newest technology will be easier to use and more reliable than what you’re used to.
MYTHS (cont.)

9. Being more accessible wherever you are via telecommunications makes life better.
10. The Goal is: Anytime, Anywhere Education.

11. There are many millions of self-disciplined self-motivated learners.
12. Someone really understands all the dimensions of face-to-face communications

-- and knows which aspects can be fully replaced by telecommunications.
13. Most institutional leaders know what they’re talking about when they say: “We’re launching a new distance education program.”
14. It’s OK to ignore changing competition from for-profit educational institutions and virtual universities.
MYTHS (cont.)

15. Education is just like other industries.

16. Industry leaders always know what they’re doing.

* If we just wait a few years, everything will re-stabilize.
30%?? Students Don’t Buy Required Textbooks (New or Used) for Courses Requiring Them
FACULTY & PROSTAFF CAN’T KEEP UP

- Pace of Arrival of Attractive New Options
- Faculty Cannot Implement Some Options Independently
“Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch...”

93-97: I. T. => MAINSTREAM

Educational Use of Info Tech Enters (Faculty) Mainstream
(Word-processing, Email, World Wide Web, Discipline-Specific Applications)

How many of you have “good” Email? Easy to send attachment?
SUPPORT SERVICE CRISIS

- Expectation/Reality Gap
- Insufficient Support Services (Technology, Library, Faculty Development, Student Services)
- SIMILAR IN U.S. INDUSTRY
PRESENT
CHANGING ROLES/DEMOGRAPHICS

- National, Not Necessarily Local
- Composition of Student Body
- Composition of Faculty
  - Adjuncts, Retirees
DISTANCE EDUCATION
CONFUSION

- Many Approaches, Many Technologies (From Cars to ITV)
  - Virtual Universities
  - Evolving Courses
  - Accidental Distance Education
“GLIMMERS”

- Ubiquitous Computing
- T/L Centers
  (Technology, Library, Faculty Development)
- Building/Retrofitting
  “Electronic Classrooms”
FACULTY BACKLASH

Zealots vs. Luddites

DANGER:
Removing Reasonable Middle Ground
HOLLOW COMMITMENTS?

- Student-Centeredness
- Asynchronous Learning
- Knowledge Society
- Learning Organizations
- Shared Governance
LEADERS WON’T WAIT

- Growing Conviction that “Traditional” Model is Inadequate
- Competition for Students, Faculty, Grants
- Lack Data, Clear Vision (Individually, Institutionally)
THE FUTURE

- Prediction
- Wish
- Nightmare
- Vision Worth Working Toward
- [Hallucination]
THINK/TALK/PRESENT

- Prediction
- Wish
- Nightmare
PREDICTIONS

Change, Not Transformation

– [Short of Astrological, Meteorological, or Social Revolution]

– “If everything’s under control, you’re not going fast enough.”
  -- Mario Andretti (?)
NIGHTMARES

- [Like Health Industry] Some Best Practitioners Pushed Out of the Profession
- Adjuncts Treated as 2nd Rate and Respond Accordingly
NIGHTMARES (cont.)

- Standardization Lowers Ceiling Instead of Raising Floor
- Individualization Undermines Community
NIGHTMARES (cont.)

- Backlash Delays Development & Implementation of Best New Combinations of Technology & Pedagogy
BIGGEST FEAR

- Widening
  - Have/Have Not Gap
    - Public Private
    - Inter-Institutional
    - Local
    - Socio-Economic
FEAR IS LOUSY MOTIVATOR FOR CHANGE

REPLACE FEAR WITH TRUST
VISIONS
WORTH WORKING TOWARD (VWWT)

- Attractive, Feasible with Commitment/Effort
- Periodic (Re)Vision Process
- New Options Can Enable Deepest Change:
  - New Questions, New Content, New Pedagogy, New Structure
VWWT (cont.)

- **Link**
  Pedagogical, Technological, Financial, ...

- **Link**
  Institutional, “Departmental,” Personal
  [& System]

- **Capture**
  Resources, Minds, Hearts
CHALLENGE:
INSTITUTIONAL FRAGMENTATION

- Improving T/L with Information Technology Requires Collaboration
- Why is Collaboration so Difficult in Higher Education?
Most Common Strategy...Still
for Integrating Info Tech
into Teaching and Learning:

- CRISIS
- LURCH
- CRISIS
- LURCH
- CRISIS
- LURCH
PATH: TLTR

Org. Hierarchy
PATH: TLTR
PATH: TLTR
PATH: TLTR
PATH: TLTR

New I.T. T/L
LOCAL TLT ROUNDTABLE

- Focus Resources on Teaching/Learning
- Inclusive Policymaking, Advising
- De-Fragmentation, Collaboration – Student-Faculty
TLTG Vision, Path, Support
Vision Worth Working Toward
Vision Worth Working Toward

TLTG Vision, Path, Support

TLTR STA Time $Plan Assessment

Vision Worth Working Toward
Access: Easy, Reliable, Compatible

Vision Worth Working Toward
TLTG Vision, Path, Support

"Fair Use" | Information Literacy
---|---
Discipline Tools | EMail WWW | MM Video Presentation ...
Access: Easy, Reliable, Compatible
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TLTG Vision, Path, Support

to Improve Teaching & Learning

Informed Choice

“Fair Use”  Information Literacy

Discipline Tools  EMail WWW MM Video Presentation ...

Access: Easy, Reliable, Compatible

TLTR STA Time $Plan Assessment

Vision Worth Working Toward
ACTIVE INFORMED CHOICE

- Lifelong Teaching & Lifelong Learning
  - Respectability, Resources
- Variety of Faculty/Student Collaboration
- Easy Implementation of Varied Combinations of Pedagogy, Technology
ACCESS, NOT EXCLUSION

- Encounters with Ideas & People Over Time [F2F?]
- Liberal Arts AND Job/Career Preparation
COMMERCIAL/CONCLUSION

- See Hand-Outs
TLT GROUP OPTIONS

- TLTR “Levers for Change” Workbook, Other Publications
- See: WWW.TLTGROUP.ORG
- ANNUAL TLTR SUMMER INSTITUTE
  – July 11-14, 1998 -- Phoenix!
TLT Group Events

- **HOST WORKSHOPS**
  - 1/2 Day TLTR Intro
  - 1.5 Day TLTR
    - “Levers for Change” “Catalyst Institutes”
  - [NEW: Visions, STA, Degrees of Distance, Flashlight, EASI!]
Subscribe to
LISTSERV
AAHESGIT
Send message to
LISTPROC@LIST.CREN.NET

“SUBSCRIBE AAHESGIT
YOURFIRSTNAME YOURLASTNAME”
RESPECT, BUILD ON LOCAL CULTURE (& POLITICS)

- Excitement for Pioneers
- Comfortable Engagement for Mainstream
- [Respect for Reluctant]
Help Learners (& Teachers) Realize [Wizard of Oz]:

– They Have the Brain
– They Have the Heart
– They Have the Courage
– [Do They Have the Equipment? The Time?]
(Only 4 more slides after this one!)

- **HOW CAN WE HELP?**
- **Send EMail to:**
  GILBERT@TLTGROUP.ORG
3 FUNDAMENTAL [VWWT] QUESTIONS

1. VWWT: What are 1 or 2 important results that you most want to gain from educational uses of information technology?

   a. For your students?
   b. For your institution?
   c. For yourself?
VWWT QUESTIONS (cont.)

2. What do you most cherish and want not to lose (for your institution)?
3. What are you willing (eager?) to give up or cut back?

[What are you willing to sacrifice in order to gain or keep something you identified in I or II?]

a. For your students?
b. For your institution?
c. For yourself?
BUILD YOUR OWN VISION
WORTH WORKING TOWARD!