

Problem Based Learning General Session II

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A decorative graphic consisting of a solid teal horizontal bar at the top, followed by a white horizontal bar, and then three thin, parallel teal horizontal lines on the right side of the white bar.

Closure rate of small colleges & universities will triple in coming years and mergers will double.

(Inside Higher Ed, 2015)

You Think You Have Problems



Did you know?

- Many of the problems surrounding declining revenues can be attributed to issues stemming from enrollment struggles. (**Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies, 2013**)
- On average, five private 4-year non-profit colleges and universities have closed per year over the last ten years, with as many as 9 institutions closing in 2009 (**The Digest of Education Statistics 2013, cited by Segosebe & Shepherd**)

Did you know?

- **Title IX** is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. (United States Dept. of Justice, 2015)
- Reports indicate that more than 230 schools have received exemption from Title IX as of April 1, with more than 30 requests still pending. (Christian Post, 2016)

Did you know?

- In 2012, approximately 125 students, nearly half the entire government lecture class at Harvard, were suspended for academic dishonesty (Buchmann, 2014).
- While most students will call plagiarism cheating, many of them will define plagiarism in a way that allows them to indirectly copy the work of others (Buchmann, 2014).

Thought to Ponder

When faced with an ethical dilemma how do you think you would respond; how do you think your colleagues or employees would respond?

Problem-Based Scenarios

All the scenarios are related to the “did you know” topics and thought to ponder.

You Make The Call

Problem-Based Scenarios



Scenario One

As the Vice President of the adult programs at your Christian University you are also responsible for managing six micro-site locations. Like many educational institutions, your university is also facing financial challenges due to the decline within the economy. Many of your students have been laid-off and not willing to incur debt from financial aid loans; therefore, they have decided not to continue their education at this time. You have been asked to present a report on the enrollment and retention for the adult program including the micro-site locations. While reviewing the enrollment statistics you discover declining enrollment numbers at one micro-site location. The university currently pays \$10K a month for the facility and in year 4 of a 5 year lease. The total number of students currently attending this micro-site location is 25 per semester, which is considerably lower than the other five micro-site locations, which are averaging 100+ students a semester. **What steps would you take to address the declining enrollment? What other recommendations would you make?**

Scenario One Group Responses

What steps would you take to address the declining enrollment?

- Take a hard look at recruitment process and take steps to avoid replication at other microsites
- Place a recruiter at the site and try to turn enrollment around
- Create a strategic recruitment initiative to increase enrollment
- Use facility for other revenue options (conference, workshops, etc.)
- Host dual credit classes at site
- Do not renew lease – do not over commit

What other recommendations would you make?

- Prepare a responsible and proactive innovative plan to provide education options for current students 1) online or 2) blended (be prepared for the worst)
- Minimize face to face class - Teach out current face-to-face classes
- Be responsive to university needs
- Maintain integrity to students and their needs
- Conduct SWOT and ROI analysis
- The institution must make a decision regarding the chosen path forward. The decision of the institution will drive the recommendations for the site.

Scenario Two

You are the Director of Admissions for the adult and professional studies program of a Christian University. One of your admissions counselors informed you that a former student is interested in returning to the university to complete her degree. The admissions counselor also informs you that the student was previously enrolled as a female and has submitted a returning student application as a male.

How would you approach this situation? What are some of the factors you need to consider in the decision making process?

Scenario Two Group Responses

How would you approach this situation?

- Would follow through on processing application
- Would review student's prior enrollment to confirm not on suspension, academic dishonesty, and make a holistic decision
- Review institutional policies

What are some of the factors you need to consider in the decision making process?

- Review institutional policies (Title 9)
- Review Federal funding implications, accreditation implications
- How to support LGBTQ students
- Provide training for faculty and staff on these matters
- How would this decision affect other students, faculty, staff

Scenario Three

You are the Academic Dean at a Christian University that also has an adult degree program. During the spring semester one of your faculty members taught a face to face history class on ground for adult students. They are also teaching the same class during the summer semester, but online for adult students. While grading the assignments the faculty member reads a paper that seems very familiar. This course did not require the use of turn it in or safe assignment, plagiarism detective software, but they decided to manually submit the paper to their safe assignment account, only to discover it was the same exact paper submitted in their spring course. When brought to your attention you investigated further and learned the student in the summer online class is the husband of the student who submitted the paper in the spring class. **What action should be taken to address this issue of plagiarism?**

Scenario Three Group Responses

What action should be taken to address this issue of plagiarism?

- Follow the policy
- Centralized required reporting so students aren't playing the system with various faculty
- Standardize consequences :
 - 1st offense -zero on assignment
 - 2nd offense – F for the course
 - 3rd offense – academic dismissal
- Make a note in both student's records
- Give consideration if the other party was not aware their paper was used

Scenario Four

You are an Academic Advisor for adult students at your college. One of the at-risk students you referred to a peer tutor informs you that the tutor is sharing tips on how to manipulate the online weekly tests and obtain the answers. When the student asked the tutor why they are sharing this information instead of actually providing tutoring assistance, the tutor responds that they are not paid by the hour, but receives a tutoring payment per student. The more students they see, the more money they earn. **What should you do in this matter?**

Scenario Four Group Responses

What should you do in this matter?

- Investigate to confirm this is true; listen carefully; don't jump to conclusions first
- Determine if only one tutor involved; how long has this been occurring
- Change pay structure
- Retrain tutors and communicate policy and consequences for those who violate
- Share with Distance Education staff to review testing features in LSM
- Assign student new tutor
- Meet with tutor – disciplinary actions - Fire tutor

Scenario Five

As a recruiter/admissions counselor for an adult program you are responsible for providing admissions information to prospective students. After an open house meeting a prospective student informs you that they previously attended a community college 10 years ago, but earned a grade of “F” in all three classes. She explains that she was fresh out of high school and dealing with personal issues asked if she could not submit the community college transcript and just start fresh at your college. The admissions requirements state that prospective students must submit all prior college transcripts. **What should you do?**

Scenario Five Group Responses

What should you do?

- Share with the student you need all transcripts- you are there to help re-write their story
- Cast a vision for persisting and graduating
- Share opportunities for “fresh start” or “conditional admissions”
- Direct conversation to redemptive focus of the program
- Share academic reprieve program
- If your institution does not have a program that allows students to come in on probation and demonstrate they can do better, consider implementing on

Thought to Ponder

“Christian Higher Education is not only necessary, but essential to humankind’s wellbeing. It is worthy of the big questions, and the finding of a way forward in the complexity of the now”

(Hoogstra, 2016, p.3)

Thought to Ponder

“At the heart of Christian Higher Education is a moral underpinning, that comes from a life of faith in the one whose life, death, and resurrection has shaped cultures long before our campuses existed”

(Hoogstra, 2016, p.3)

Thought to Remember

Our mission is not simply educating students...we are sharing truth, changing and transforming lives, training and equipping students to answer the call God has on their life. So no matter what challenges we face, remember Jeremiah 29:11

Conclusion

Prayer for our institutions

Thank
You

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