



**FUSION** 2009  
Desire2Learn Users Conference

**The ART  
of LEARNING**





## Presented By:

**Melanie Jackson**

South Florida Community College

**Craig Wahl**

Desire2Learn







**FUSION** 2009  
Desire2Learn Users Conference

**The ART  
of LEARNING**





# Expert Panel Discussion







## Sue McKight

Director of Libraries and Knowledge Resources  
*Nottingham Trent University*

Moderator







## Alfred H. Essa

Vice-Chancellor and Deputy CIO  
*Minnesota State Colleges and Universities*

Is Analytics the Next Big Thing?







## Terri-Lynn Brown

Learning Consultant/Projector Manager  
*Calgary Board of Education*

How Do We Know?







## Stephen Downes

Senior Researcher

*Learning and Collaborative Technologies Group*

Understanding Students Needs







# We Only Exist Because of the Needs of Students

What do students need?

How do we know what they need/what they think they need?

What are the challenges?

How will we provide what they need?

What are the solutions?







Presentations by each panellist

20 minutes of questions after the presentations are done

Back Channel will be open all the time, BUT ...

Questions will be shown/taken during Question Times to respect the presenters and the physical and virtual audiences





<https://fusionchat.desire2learn.com>



## We Only Exist Because of the Needs of Students



### Professor Sue McKinght

Director of Libraries and Knowledge Resources  
*Nottingham Trent University*





## Which students?

Potential students?

Existing Students?

School leavers?

Mature students?

International students?

Students with disabilities?

1st Year students?

Final year students

Research students?

Female students?

Students who are parents?

... who do we mean?





Is each student segment as important as the others?

Can we use information from elsewhere and apply it at my institution?





## At what stage of their learning and engagement?

Before they start?

When they start?

When they are learning?

Kindergarten and pre-school?

Primary or Secondary School?

College or University?



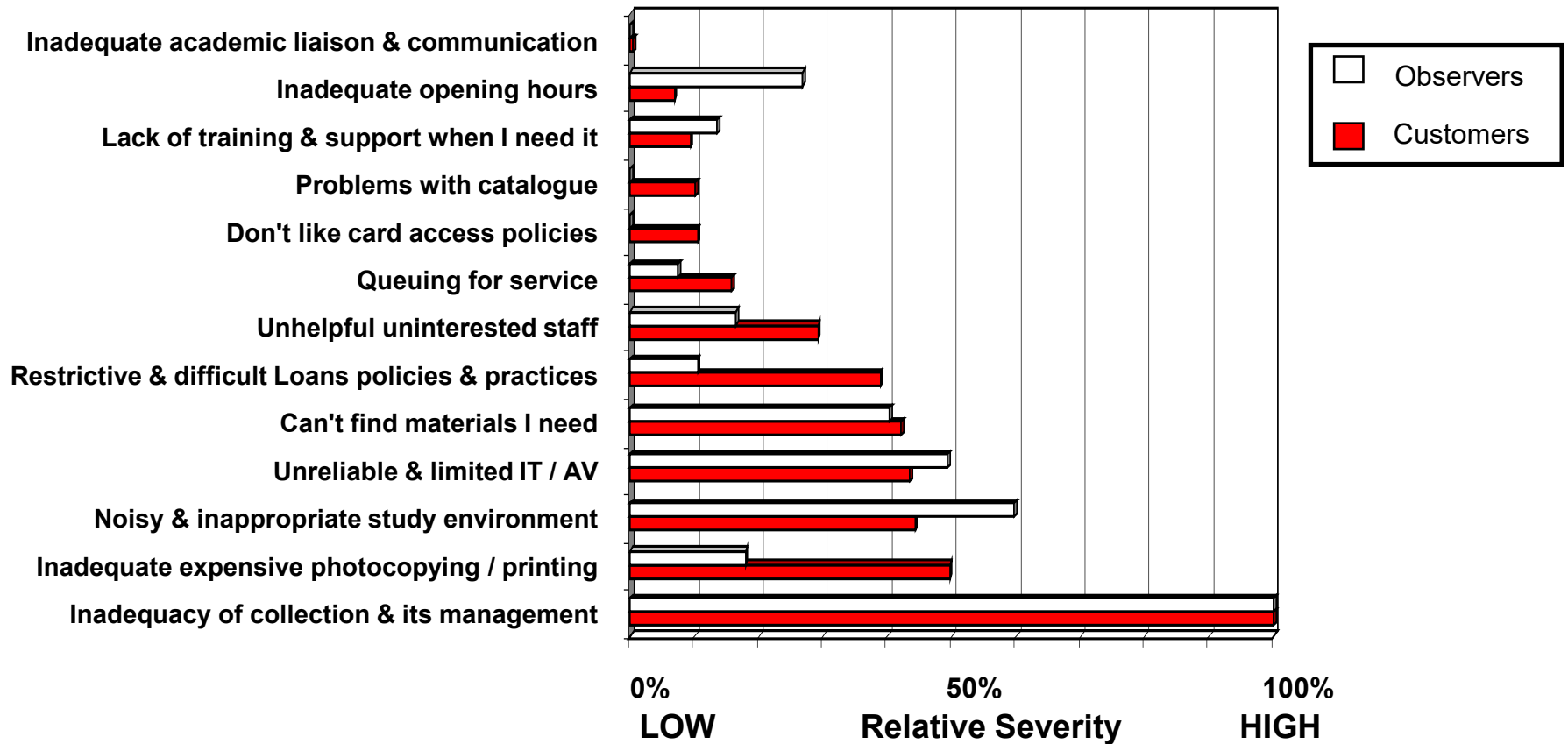
## How do you know what students need?

Do we rely on our own assumptions, because we are the expert?

Do you ask them?

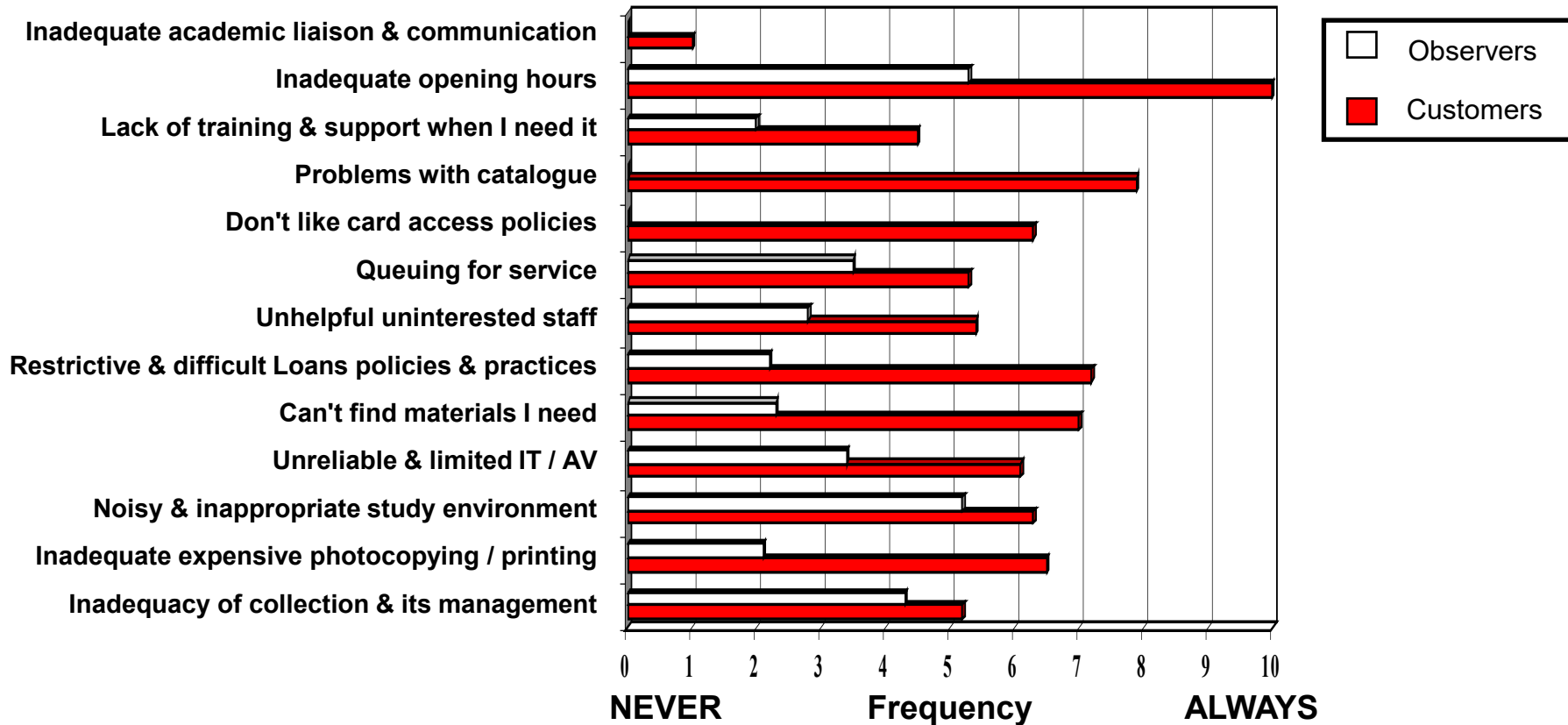


## Students Hierarchy of Irritation - Gaps





## Students Hierarchy of Irritation – Frequency - Gaps





## How do you know what students need?

Do you rely on external research?

Do you lurk and measure?

A combination of approaches?



## What are the challenges?

Which student segment?

Too Time consuming and costly?

What can I do in response to feedback?

Can data gathering be automated?

What is on the horizon?



## Panellists' Challenges

Who? What? How? When? Why?

What does best practice look like?

What is the audiences' experience?



## From the Specific to the Global



Terri-Lynn ....

Al ....

Stephen ....







## Terri-Lynn Brown

Learning Consultant/Projector Manager  
*Calgary Board of Education*

How Do We Know?







Do We Know?



- Always Known
- We Don't Know
- **Get To Know**





**What Do  
They Need?**

**How Will We  
Provide It?**





# Students Need To:

- Have Options
- Make It Matter
- Learn Together





# Challenges?

## Solutions?





# Thinking Beyond...

- The Boxes
- Old Paradigms
- The Technology





The logo for the Fusion 2009 conference. The word "FUSION" is in a large, bold, grey sans-serif font. The letter "i" is replaced by a stylized grey graphic of a computer monitor with an orange square dot for a pixel. The year "2009" is written vertically in a smaller, grey sans-serif font to the right of "FUSION". Below this, the text "Desire2Learn Users Conference" is written in a smaller, grey sans-serif font.

# FUSION 2009

Desire2Learn Users Conference





## Alfred H. Essa

Vice-Chancellor and Deputy CIO  
*Minnesota State Colleges and Universities*

Is Analytics the Next Big Thing?







# What is Analytics and how will it serve students?





## The Cockpit Metaphor







# Imagine tools that...





## We Are Building...



### Student Navigation System (SNS)

- *for students*

### Classroom Navigation System (CNS)

- *for faculty*

### Assist Navigation System (ANS)

- *for staff*



## Faculty Member Home Screen



**Math 101**



15



7



2

Note: Alternative display would use bubbles of different sizes to convey number of students in each category for each class:

**Math 201**



9



4



1

**Math 301**



6



5



4



## Class (e.g. Math 101) Home Screen



Andrews, Patti  
Minneapolis



Burger, Warren  
St. Paul



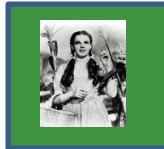
Demarest, Bill  
St. Paul



Douglas, Bill  
Maine



Dylan, Bob  
Duluth



Garland, Judy  
Grand Rapids



Getty, JP  
Minneapolis



Keillor, Gary  
Anoka



Lange, Jess  
Cloquet



Lewis, "Sinc"  
Sauk Center



Mayo, Bill  
Le Sueur



♀  
Minneapolis



# Drill Down by Person

Person

Profile



Dylan, Bob  
Duluth

(What's Useful, Practical, Legal to Know? Age, Occupation, Marital Status, Children? How do any of these or other relevant variables affect analytics?)

Past: College

- Accuplacer Raw, Ptile, SD
- GPA Raw, Ptile, SD

-----  
Correlation on each and  
combos of above vs. grade

Past: Course

- Accuplacer Raw, Ptile, SD
- GPA Raw, Ptile, SD

-----  
Correlation on each and  
combos of above vs. grade

Present: Course

- Login
- Interact
- Participate
- Frequency

-----  
Correlation on each  
and combos of  
above vs. grade

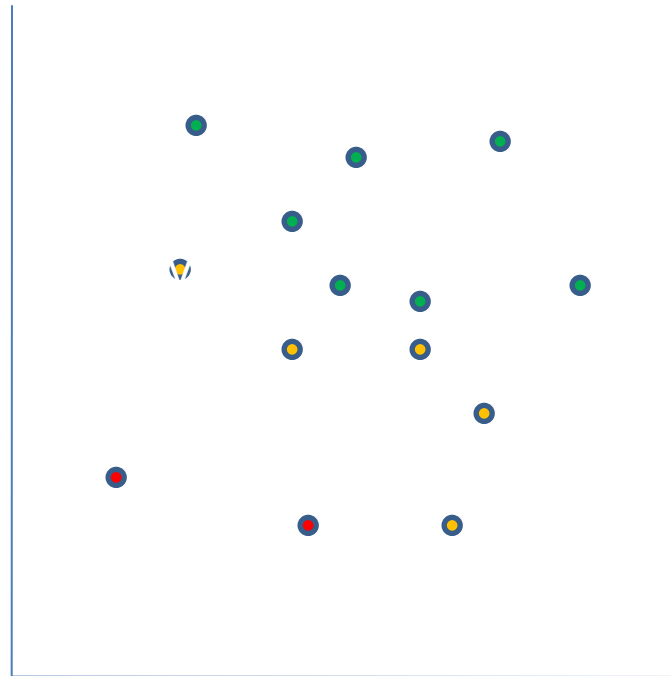
Action

- Academic
  - Program A
  - Program B**
  - Program C
- Career
- Financial / Personal



## Drill Down to Data

Overall  
College  
GPA

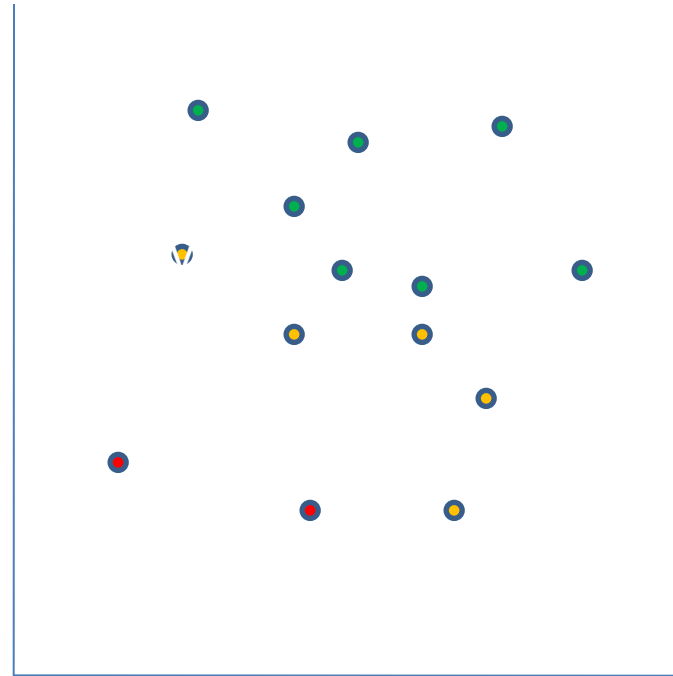


Accuplacer Score



## Drill Down to Data

Overall  
College  
GPA

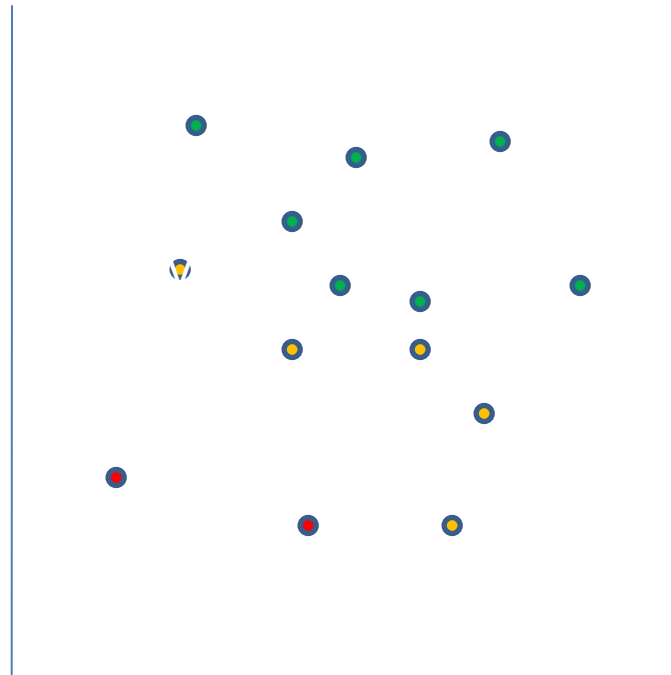


High School GPA



## Drill Down to Data

Grade in  
Course

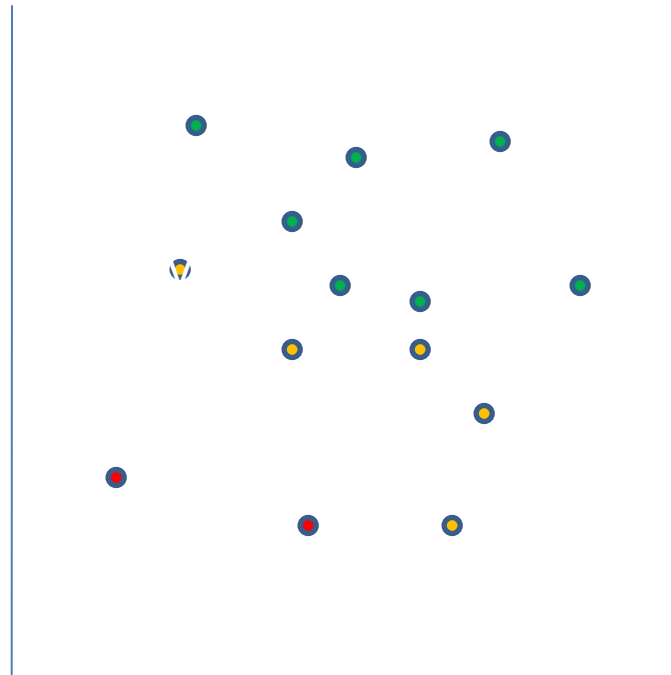


Score on Course-Relevant  
Accuplacer Section



## Drill Down to Data

Grade in  
Course

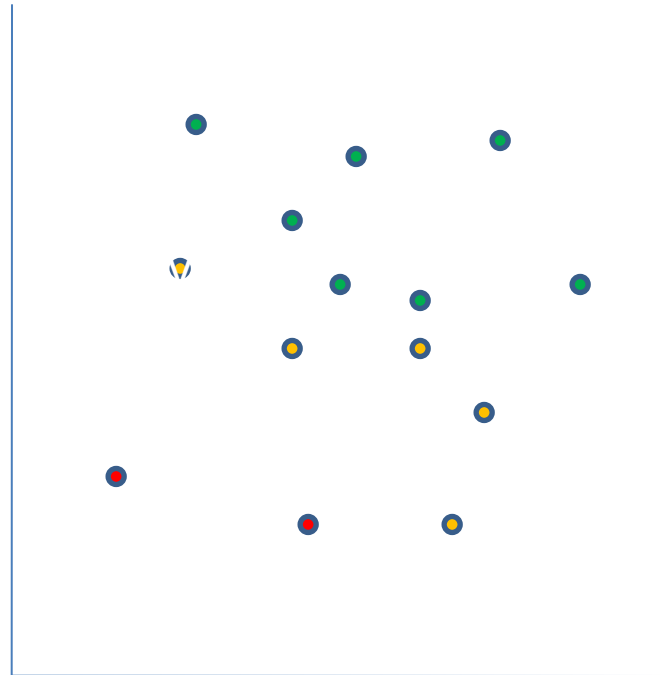


High School Average GPA in  
Relevant Courses



## Drill Down to Data

Grade in  
Course

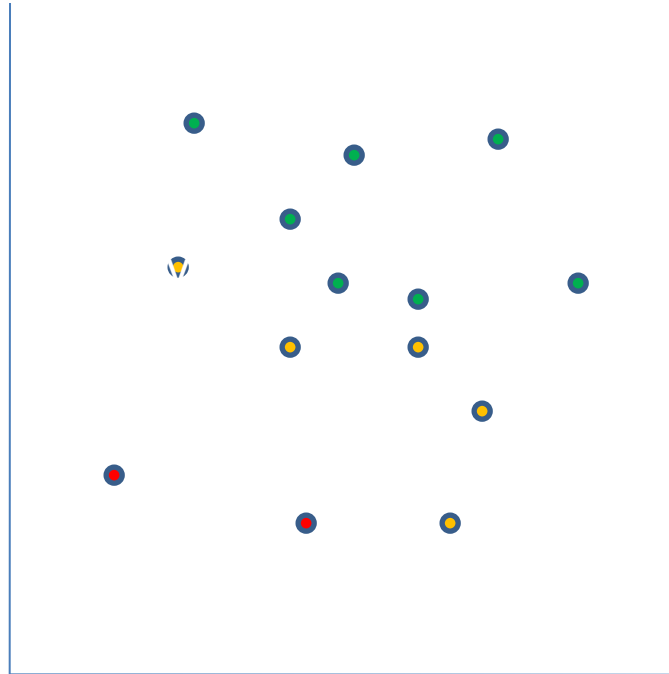


Number of times student logged into  
courseware by n weeks into the course



## Drill Down to Data

Grade in  
Course

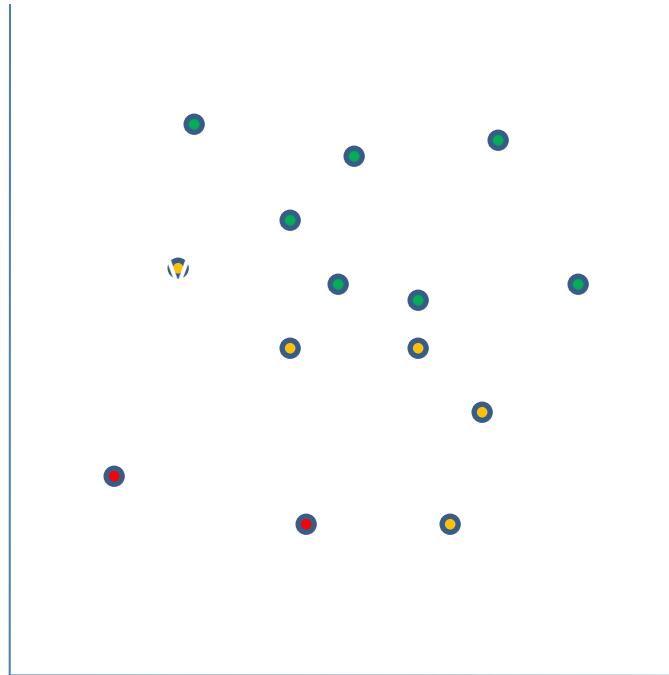


Number of times student accessed  
relevant content (quizzes, readings, etc.) in  
courseware by n weeks into the course



## Drill Down to Data

Grade in  
Course



Number of times student contributed to /  
interacted with classmates and professor  
through courseware by n weeks into the course



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Desire2Learn Users Conference





## Stephen Downes

Senior Researcher

*Learning and Collaborative Technologies Group*

Understanding Students Needs





## Why We Exist



Proposal: we only exist because of the needs of students

Reality: many players are involved in education, and we need to attend to them

We also exist for our own needs; viability is essential

We exist in a society, and a technological milieu



## What Do Students Need?



An essential question: who are the students?

When we sample students, do we sample:

- Existing students?

- Potential students?

- Drop-outs?

What do we mean by “need”?

- To graduate?

- To succeed in life?



## How Do We Know...?



Knowing depends on evidence (of course) but what constitutes evidence?

The presumption of often that if the knowledge is *about* students, that it must be obtained *from* students

John Stuart Mill: the best evidence that someone desires something is that they actually pursue it



## How Do We Provide?



The model of service that ‘provides’ is rapidly changing

We don’t ‘provide’ an education, we help people become educated

Education has always been about offering these supports and services

As learners’ capacities increase, we need to adapt in order to extend these capacities



## Challenges



Like never before, people are learning:

- Informally
- Outside the institution
- From many sources

We need to take into account these external influences, and adapt to *become* one

- Education delivery to a community, not a class
- Education *support*, not management



## Solutions



We need to *be there* when and where learners need us and call for us

We need to have the best information, no matter where it comes from

We need to *work well with others*, including parents, government, providers, others schools

We need to *keep adapting*



# FUSION 2002

Desire2Learn Users Conference





# FUSiON<sup>2008</sup>

Desire2Learn Users Conference







# FUSION<sup>2008</sup>

Desire2Learn Users Conference







## Vintage Vegas

### *Landmark*

Walking distance – map in program on page 5

Event starts at 7:00 PM

