

Online Education

Current Topics and Trends

October 18, 2013

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“The horse is here to stay but the automobile is only a novelty – a fad.”

Advice allegedly given by the President of the Michigan Savings Bank to Henry Ford’s lawyer in 1903 not to invest in the Ford Motor Company.



Disruptive Innovation

What a difference 100 yrs makes!

1900's Horseless Carriage



2013 Cadillac XTS



Drivers of Change

▶ Learning Sciences

- Open Learning Initiative, adaptive/individualized learning, ITS, cognitive courseware
- Carnegie Mellon, Arizona State

▶ Competency-based Education

- WGU, Wisconsin, SUNY, NAU
- SNHU, ‘College for America’
- “New University of California”

▶ Business Model Innovation

- Christensen et al, disruptive innovation
- StraigherLine
- Access, lower-cost, quality

▶ The Economy

Trends

- Handcrafted
- Intuitive Teaching
- Seat-Time
- Fee-based Credits
- Scarcity
- Campus-Centric
- Place
- Location-bound
- ▶ Precision-Built
- ▶ Learning Sciences
- ▶ Competency-based
- ▶ Fee-based Credentials
- ▶ Unlimited Scalability
- ▶ Network-Based
- ▶ Process
- ▶ Place-Independent

Precursors & Catalysts

- ▶ 2008 (Wiley, Siemens, Downes, Cormier)
- ▶ Open Educational Resources (OER)
- ▶ MIT OpenCourseWare project: 2,100 'courses'
- ▶ Kahn Academy
- ▶ OLI: 18 free online courses
- ▶ Saylor Foundation: 281 free online courses

Massive Open Online Course

- ▶ Online course (4 – 12 weeks)
- ▶ Open access
- ▶ ‘Unlimited’ enrollment
- ▶ Graded (automated)
- ▶ Discussion forums / Meetups
- ▶ Free (may pay for proctored exams)
- ▶ May offer a ‘Certificate of Completion’
- ▶ Non-credit (typically)
- ▶ An alternative degree pathway? Evolving

Major MOOC Providers

[Udacity](#) (for-profit) Stanford
Sebastian Thrun

[Coursera](#) (for-profit) Stanford
Daphne Koller, Andrew Ng

[edX](#) (not-for-profit) MIT/Harvard

[NovoEd](#) Stanford

[FutureLearn](#) Open University

[OpenupEd](#) European Commission

[iversity](#) Germany

Format

- ▶ Prerecorded video lectures
- ▶ Lecture notes
- ▶ Quizzes, exams (auto-graded)
- ▶ Discussion forum
- ▶ “Self-service learning and crowd sourced teaching” (Jeffrey Young, CHE)

Motivations

- ▶ Improve teaching and learning
- ▶ Tapping into global intelligence
- ▶ Democratize education
- ▶ Mining talent for employers (recruitment service)
- ▶ Brand recognition, brand marketing
- ▶ Extending scope of influence
- ▶ Prototypes of optimized learning environments
- ▶ Hedge against irrelevance

Business Models

1- Fee-based: Certificate of Completion

2 - Coursera Career Services (recruitment services)

3 -Course Licensing to institutions

Emerging MOOC-based Degrees

- MOOC-based degree programs:
Georgia Tech: \$7000 MS in computer science (1/2014)
- MITx "XSeries" MOOC Certificate sequences
 - Foundations of Computer Science
 - Supply Chain and Logistics Management
- Online program marketing

MOOC²DEGREE™

Collaboration between Academic Partnerships and public universities

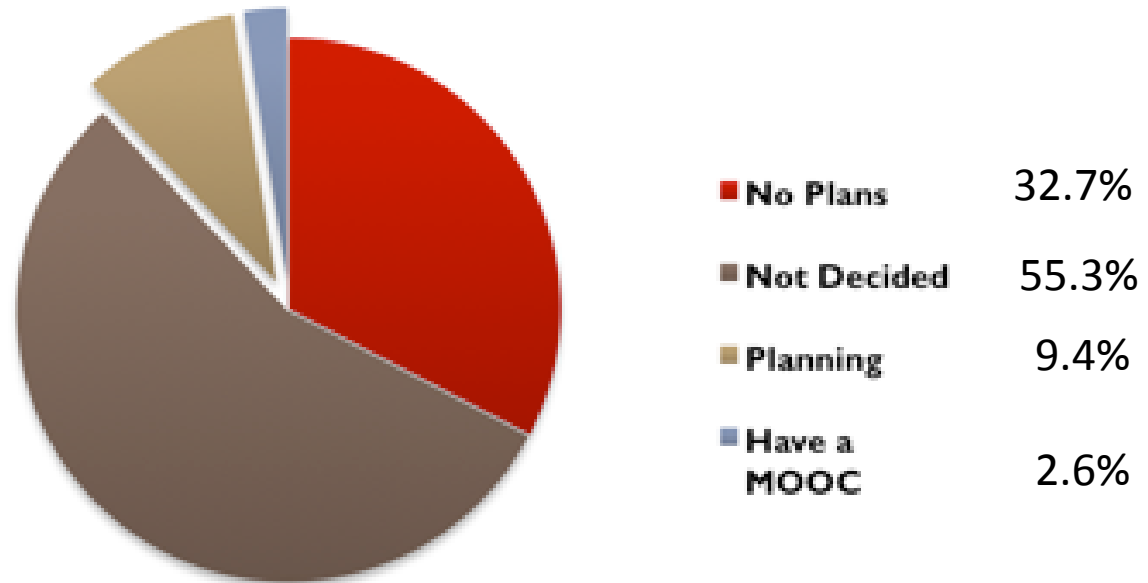
- Cincinnati, Arkansas, West Florida, Utah State, et al

mooc.org

» Open edX platform

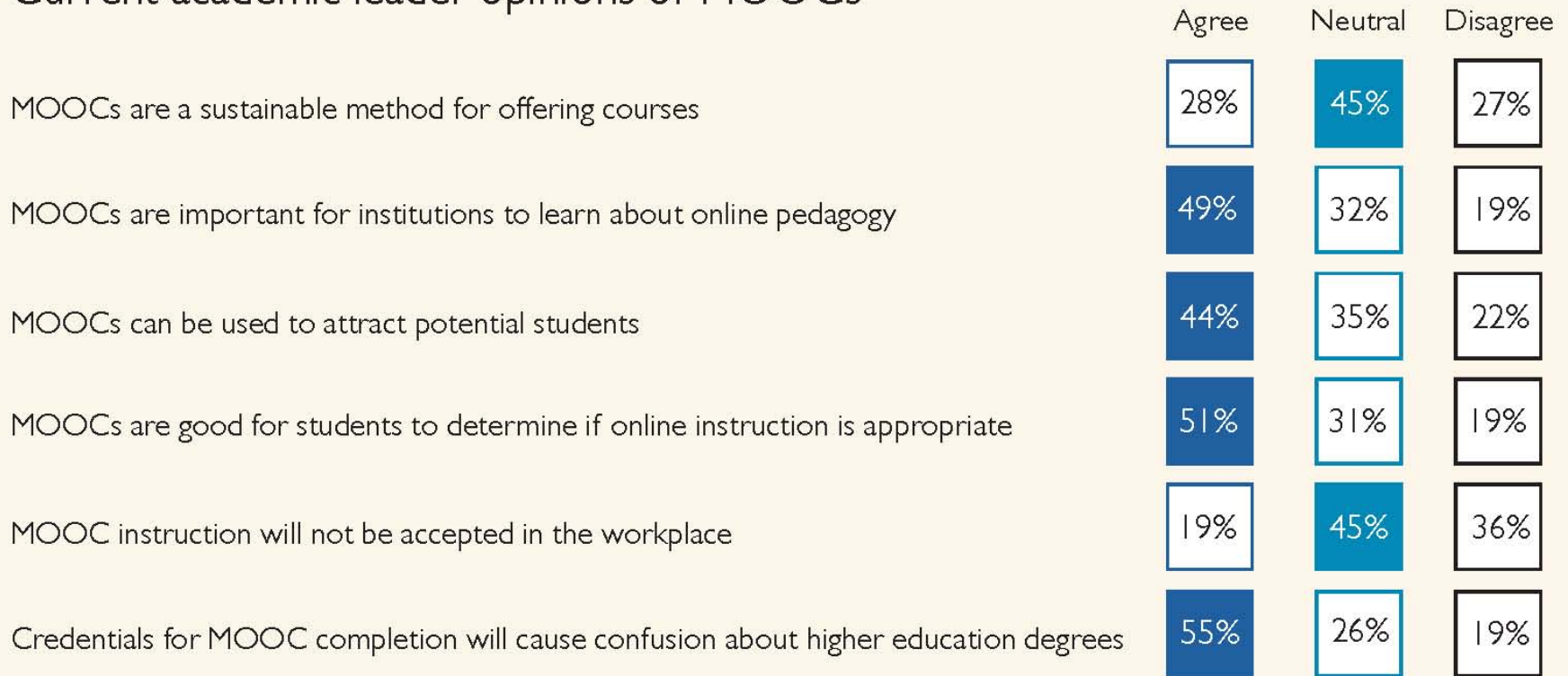
Sloan Annual Report

Plans for MOOCs - 2012



Changing Course: Ten Years of Tracking Online Education in the United States,
Babson Survey Research Group, 2013.

Current academic leader opinions of MOOCs



Changing Course: Ten Years of Tracking Online Education in the United States,
Babson Survey Research Group, 2013.

Concerns

- ▶ Academic rigor & quality, esp. at scale
- ▶ Cheating
- ▶ Commercial exploitation
- ▶ Student adaptability
- ▶ Dropout rates

Further Reading

- Five Myths about MOOCS, *EDUCAUSE Review Online*, September – October, 2013
- The MOOC Model: Challenging Traditional Education, *EDUCAUSE Review Online*, January-February 2013

Online Initiatives

▶ SUNY

Expanding online programs & options for time-shortened degree completion:

- Prior-learning assessment
- Competency-based programs
- MOOCs

▶ UF Online

- fully online bachelor's degree programs
- “one of the nation's first fully online undergraduate arms at a public university”

CA Senate Bill 520

- ▶ 472K (20%) CC students: waiting list (Fall 2012)
 - ▶ Cal State system: 16% graduate in 4 yrs
- ▶ 50 lower-level Gen Ed courses
- ▶ Faculty Council to review & approve online courses
- ▶ Public universities may give credit for courses provided by private vendors (e.g., Straigtherline, MOOCs, Pearson)

'Direct Assessment Provision' HEA

- ▶ 3/19: USDoE official approval of federal financial aid to students enrolled in competency-based programs
- ▶ WGU: 'competency credits'
- ▶ SNHU: direct assessment of student learning
- ▶ Extend aid to remedial education and prior-learning assessments?

Challenging Assumptions:

- ▶ The necessity of a fixed, time-based curriculum
- ▶ What is a learning space?
- ▶ Our notion of what a college is
- ▶ Roles of faculty & students
- ▶ The balance of power: shifting to students
 - More options: knowledge acquisition & credentialing

Stay Tuned!



Our Next Online Programs Event...

Making a web site using Weebly

Friday November 1, 2013

11am - 1pm

P/K Library, Room 144

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