Evolving Undergraduate Education: What Will the Future Look Like?

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I. Context

II. Aligning With Context: Future state of undergraduate education

III. Discussion
I. Relevant Context

1. Public Concern

2. Radically Changing Employment Landscape

3. Diversification of Learners & Expectations
1. Public Concern

• ROI: value, cost, debt

• Persistence and graduation rates

• Misalignment with the market

• Lack of access
2. Radically Changing Employment Landscape

- Automation: Robots, AI, ML, etc.
- Globalization
- Changing nature of organizations
- Half-life of skills
- New job frontiers
- Expanded career length
- Perceived skills gap
- Employer view of the future
3. Diversification of Learners & Expectations

• Changing demographics

• Current college students’ interests, value, experiences

• Current employees’ views of the future
Pace of Change IS Accelerating
II. WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN FOR THE FUTURE STATE OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION?
Themes / Dimensions

• Intellectual Agility
• Global Mindset
• Social Consciousness & Commitment
• Professional & Personal Effectiveness
• Well-being
How do we prepare undergraduate students to . . .

- Address the world’s political, economic & social challenges?
- Reflect the human experience and imagine the future?
- Respond to volatility, uncertainty, complexity, ambiguity?
- Engage a multi-generational and multi-cultural workforce?
- Continue to learn in a workplace environment?
- Take control of their own career development?
- Embrace roles/activities that cannot be automated?
- Learn to work in robot-human partnerships?
- Deal with continually expanding access to information?
One Institution’s Initial Response

1) Balance our educational approach
2) Expand our experiential education model
3) Give students more agency
4) Think beyond the traditional
Overarching Goal for Undergraduates

Address the false dichotomy between intellectual experience and job readiness
1. We need to balance & integrate . . .

Disciplinary content and broader context

Disciplinary content and intellectual & professional skills

Traditional and new literacies, competencies, skills

What people learn and how people learn
2. Expand our Experiential Education Model

• Co-op

• Undergraduate Research & Creative Endeavors

• Service Learning

• EVERYTHING: co-curricular activities, living situations, service, etc.

• SAIL: ‘self-authored’ integrated learning
3. Give Students More Agency

- SAIL: ‘self-authored’ integrated learning
- Emphasis on self-directed learning
- NUPath
- *Designing Your Life* model
But what if we thought beyond current constraints of . . .

• Timeframes
• Credentials
• Delivery modes
• Structures

And Challenge Old Assumptions!
4. Thinking Beyond the Traditional

- IBM and Badging
- ALIGN
- EQUIP and GE
- Major League Baseball
- Boston Ballet Partnership
- Lowell Institute