

Jumping off a cliff And bouncing

University of Portsmouth Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

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What I'll cover

- The Northampton Context
- “If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change”
- Challenging Shibboleths
- Impact
- Slings and Arrows

The University of Northampton



Big changes – for everyone!

- Teaching & Learning
- Agile working (with no offices)
- Paperless
- No ownership of buildings
- 40% less floor space
- BYOD for students
- Parking



Underpinning principles

- IT rich
- Adaptable
- Integrated
- Democratic



Challenging Shibboleths: IT Rich



- We won't be able to support BYOD
- Students want more fixed PCs
- What about specialist software?
- Digital skills of students and staff are not yet universally embedded
- Academics (and students) won't support e-first – they want their books

Challenging Shibboleths: Adaptable



- A campus needs a Business School/Library/Arts Building etc etc
- They need to know what space is for
- If it is always changing then they'll not find 'their space'
- "These new buildings seem to signify that the zombie hegemony of neoliberalism is still animated" Prof Rob Smith, WonkHE 13/2/20

Challenging Shibboleths: Integrated

- Who will control student behaviour?
- You need an office for confidential/sensitive work
- You'll never know where anyone is
- You need specialists to answer specialist queries



Challenging Shibboleths: Democratic

- Space can't be managed if no-one owns it
- Someone needs the final say
- If you ask a student/academic/IT/etc etc what they want then they'll say what they had or more of what they've got

Impact – working practices

- Pedagogy
- Identity
- Collaboration
- Agile – X is never there
- The impact of IT/AI
- Use of space





Impact - metrics

- Recruitment
- Continuation
- Achievement
- Attendance
- NSS/PTES/PRES
- Engagement

Impact students

- ◉ IT, IT, IT, IT
- ◉ Relatively little - acceptance/indifference. This is how it is.
- ◉ Issues with getting hold of staff – perception more than reality
- ◉ Issues with parking affecting ‘stickiness’
- ◉ Issues with sport facilities, lifts not working, too many stairs – not the central ethos. This is popular.
- ◉ Moving around rather than sticking to a space
- ◉ Parking



Slings and Arrows: viruses, hackers, Techbros and red meat

- IT: staff equipped and student BYOD
- E-First resources
- Everyone is digitally literate aren't they
- What to do about AI?
- Integrated: coordinated campus responses response
- Do we even need a £360 million campus anymore? Fewer students but bigger spaces, more commuters, less engagement
- Changes to curriculum mean changes to campus – but how do we afford them?

Any Questions?

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