Class Notes

SED AP 550

11/9/2011

**New England Institute of Art Visit**

**Tour of New England Institute of Art (IT Focus)**

* Building used to be open 24 hours, now open for a good portion of the night/am for student use
* Labs in building are 75% Mac, 25% PC. They had a convenient online scheduling system for the labs
* IT spending used to set at a minimum dollar amount per student, but now it is set up as an overall spending budget
* The technology lifecycle of all machines is currently set at 3 ½ years
* Outdated machines for students are sometimes repurposed for staff
* New purchases for hardware and software must be passed through the hardware and software committees respectively, even if on the approved product list (APL)
* Audio is one of their more well-known programs and they have some of the most state of art audio technology and experienced faculty
* Their enrollment goal was 1800, currently they are down a bit at 1400 or so
* They have a student radio station
* An instructor in a video production class spoke to us about a taped award show they produce in his class and how important it is for building both experience and community especially at a commuter school. He also spoke to how much he liked his students and his part-time teaching job as it allowed him to keep working on local movie productions in the area.

**Info/Q&A Session**

* Q: How is mission different from a traditional liberal arts school?

A: education is not just for educations purpose but for specific career purposes and employment is a big part of the mission statement

* Q: What is a benefit of working in a non-profit?

A: Things move faster and they can add new programs faster to respond to market and employer needs. Also better resources from parent company – EdMC. A benefit of working at this AI school in particular is that the students very grateful as many of them didn’t think they had a chance to go to school. Rewarding career. One negative is that in general for-profits have higher faculty teaching loads.

* This is the only AI school on a semester system, all other schools are on a quarter system which makes calculating transfer credits hard
* 30% of the population is there for audio, and this is this the biggest of all 20 AI audio programs
  + Different from UMass program in that UMass has more of an engineering and electronics focus
  + Different from Berkeley program in that you don’t have to be a musician to do audio program
* Originally started as a broadcast school
* In the whole EdMC company this is the only NEASC accredited school. It was NEASC when it was taken over and therefore they continue to have more general education courses in the curriculum than other AI and other EdMC schools
* They have 48 full-time faculty with extensive industry experience and contacts and about 100 adjuncts
* Faculty can apply for rank of assist., assoc., and full professor
  + About ¼ to ½ have rank currently
  + Appointment at rank is a rigorous process as is applying for sabbaticals. They only have 1 or 2 faculty at full professor
  + Their course load is 4,4,3, or 11 courses a year. Very high, but not as high as some other for-profits.
  + Many faculty development opportunities and grants for development. They also offer tuition assistance for faculty.
* They offer remediation classes in math and English for students. Instructors who teach general ed courses do tailor the topics or emphasis of the class to the students interest to make them more applicable and relevant
* Half of students come straight out of high school, half come in with transfer credit
* They have 25 international students
* 70% of their students are eligible for Pell Grants
* Their admissions process is need blind, but many students are first time students and disadvantaged students. They are somewhat selective. Selectivity is 70%.
* Very little housing for students at Pine Manor up the road 1-2 miles. 20% of students use the AI housing. To create community they host a number of school-wide and program specific events that combine student skills and provide students with a change to interact.
* The average debt load is 50-60K for graduates. Q: Did gainful employment rules effect enrollments? A: Yes, especially as many programs are set up to release students into entry-level positions that may not pay well, but offer them an opportunity to start in a rewarding field that is hard to enter and gives them the skills to advance which is hard to measure.
* Six year retention rates are 48% which is on par with national average. 1st year retention rate are 63%, but their goal is 70%.
* They conduct as many surveys as possible that go out to students, recent grads, employers, and alumni. The major student complaint is – you guessed it – parking.
* All AI online courses are produced and run at the Pittsburg campus. There is some resistance at NEIA to incorporate more online classes due to the hands on nature of some of their programs. In the future they think they will see more hybrid courses. In general AI online is huge and they do offer whole degrees online (more suited for design fields).