

Case Study Part I

Midday at a mid-sized university, midway through the semester, we listen in on a conversation between President Fixitnow and Provost Nolira...

Fixitnow: "We've invested millions in technology. So why aren't more professors using it?"

Nolira: They are! Almost 1/3 of our professors are already using WebCT this semester.
(stating proudly)

Fixitnow: But we are a tech savvy University. We should have more. Can we move from 1/3 to 2/3?

Nolira: Sure, we can work on that.
(with a slightly furrowed brow)

Fixitnow: And I don't just want more of the same. Make sure that the instruction improves.

Nolira: OK, we'll work on that too...

(turning so his look of panic cannot be seen)

Fixitnow: Good, don't let me down. I'm working on a report to the Ed Affairs Committee of the Board next month. And I need a plan by then.

Nolira: I'll get right on it.
(walking away) *(additional remarks unintelligible)*

Activity 1: Discuss the questions below in small groups.

1. If this scenario were to happen at your institution, how might the parameters of the conversation differ?
2. How might the Provost assess whether or not technology is being used effectively?
3. How might the Provost encourage faculty to transform the learning process?
4. At your institution, to whom would the Provost likely turn for assistance?