

Points to Consider
UPDATED Plan for Strategic Actions to Take Charge of Our Future
YSU Board of Trustees
December 11, 2024

Whatever It Is, I'm Against It – Resistance to Change in Higher Education, Brian Rosenberg, Harvard Education Press, 2023.

A COLLEGE WITHOUT A VISION IS A COLLEGE WITHOUT A FUTURE

The most likely scenario going forward is that slow, incremental change will continue to be the rule. The impediments to rapid transformational change from within seem simply too powerful and deeply entrenched to overcome.

“Faculty choosing to resist change...is a cultural issue. They’re able to understand the problem and maybe how they can contribute to its solution, but there isn’t a culture to support that. To take on that shared responsibility is contrary to the place they believe they hold in the institution.

Under these circumstances, what is most important is that the small changes move colleges gradually in the right direction. Toward more experiential learning. Toward less disciplinary rigidity. Toward a more clearly defined, more limited, and more genuinely distinctive mission. Toward more focus on the issues that matter in the world. Above all else, towards more emphasis on students as the highest priority of the college and as the drivers of their own learning.

All of these goals have the potential both to bend the cost-curve of higher education and to make it better. (pp163-164)

With the right confluence of circumstances - brave and creative leadership within the administration and the faculty, external pressures that demand a response and good ideas – it is feasible to imagine a college or university that offers to the world an education that is more affordable, more student centered, more experiential, and more holistic: one that does not attempt to replicate the offerings and practices of countless institutions all over the country... (pp165)

Alternative Universities: Speculative Design for Innovation in Higher Education, David Staley, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019.

Higher education has become a commoditized industry. ...usually used to reference consumer goods becoming relatively indistinguishable from each other...the tendency arises for each college and university to adopt the best practices of the competition and thereby begin to resemble... (pp214)

What can a university become? Asking what a university can become assumes the university is always in a state of becoming and that there is not “one” idea of a university to which all institutions must aspire. Innovation in higher education means imagining and enacting many new ideas... (pp217)