Going Where the Students Are: Matching Tools to Today’s Challenges

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A large number of tools (from clickers to OER to social networks) are being employed against a large number of challenges (including budgets, competition, and student proclivities), often in broad-stroke strategic brushes. Such a cubist approach raises an ironic risk of incoherency in learning, pedagogy, and resource allocation. A dual tactical approach — making use of students own toolkits, and addressing particular tools to particular challenges — would be more impressionist in "painting CSUN's canvas", taking advantage of the fuzzy reality of our work and our audience.

Overview:
• Large number of tools being employed
  — Clickers, OER, social networks...
• Large number of challenges
  — budgets, competition, student proclivities...
• Practice ignores potential connections
  — Institutional Toolkits vs. Student Experiences
• Vision for campus canvas
  — Dual tactical approach, under strategic vision

Challenges we face ...
• Student
  — Cost
  — Physical Distance
  — Working
  — Connection Expectations
  — ESL
  — Remedial
  — Other
• Department
  — Student Diversity
  — Time & Schedules
  — Budget Pressures
  — Competition
  — Other