

# The Changing Faculty Role in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Symposia Analyzing Contextual Factors

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### Abstract

Talk of evolution at universities has been a constant almost as long as universities have been in existence. The movement from religious to secular institutions took hundreds of years. The move to become more inclusive is a relatively recent phenomenon as is the growth of the for-profit sector and distance education. The Chronicle of Higher Education regularly includes articles that discuss the need to reinvent the university and politicians, in the United States and elsewhere, have called for change.

While much seems to be discussed at the organizational level, little resembling proactive discussion and action has taken place about the changing nature of faculty and their work. Where do the many changes leave the “traditional” faculty – how do these influences impact faculty work? Traditional, virtual, faculty, facilitator, manager of the learning environment are all terms that have been added to higher education vocabulary.

Dr. Vrba, Dr. Bemski, and Dr. Berkshire will briefly present on the contextual environment of higher education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and will lead a discussion on how these factors may influence the faculty model and what may be appropriate for the faculty roles of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Who is a faculty member for the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Table 1: Influences on Faculty Role indicate some of the factors that are impacting faculty role expectations.

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<b>Category</b>	<b>Factors</b>
Technology	Online Courses, MOOCS, video links,
Adjunct Faculty	Sage on the Stage, Guide on the Side, Facilitator, Manager of the learning environment, unions
Global	Communications, business, cultural diversity
Students	Age, returning, gender equality, Tech Savvy
For Profits	Marketing blitz, buying leads
Government	Federal student aid, grants, scholarships, work study, loans, research grants
How is success measured?	Mass outcomes assessments, degree completion rate, retention levels, work placement

All involved in higher education either delivering or participating in learning would be invited to participate in the symposia.