

Online and Academic Strategy and Innovation

(Meeting the Moment)

Zvi Biener; Dec 11, 2025
<https://zbiener.github.io>



<https://bit.ly/4ptn0Hg>



Who am I?

Interdisciplinary

- Physics BA
- Humanities PhD
- Team teach with GEOG, PLAN, ENG, PSYC, NCSI
- Empirical research on Loneliness w/ BIOL, EVNE, Nursing
- Affiliate of CHat

Tech-Nerd

- Network & Database Engineer
- Code for Fun
- Website construction
- Conference backend management
- Taught online since 2013 (IIAC).

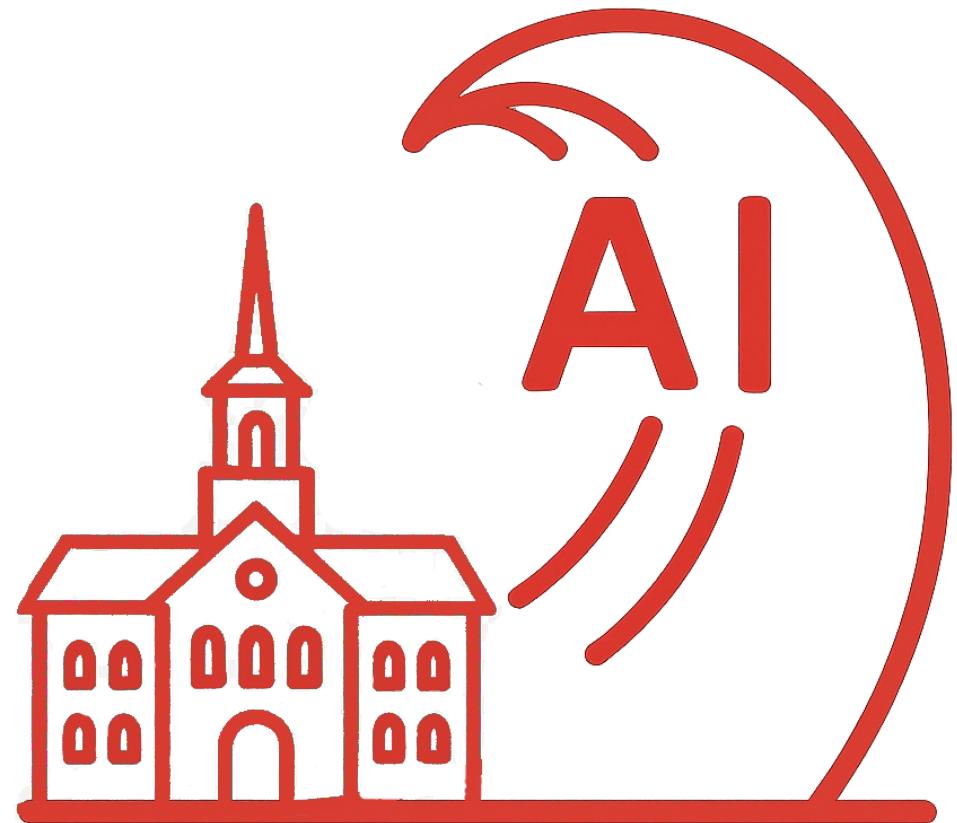
Leadership Experience

- Editor-in-Chief: PhilSci-Archive (like arXiv, SSRN)
- VP, President, & PP: *HOPOS*
- Head, Network Operations *Graphnet* (International Enterprise Cloud Communications)

A Pivotal Moment...

- Students use AI widely but lack training & understanding / Higher Ed slow to adjust.
- Disrupt assessment
- De-skill what we've been teaching (coding, writing, data analysis, etc.)
- De-value education & learning
- Particularly acute online (and preventing further adoption).

A Strategic Opportunity



Created using ChatGPT and GIMP

A Pivotal Moment...

- Students use AI widely but lack training & understanding / Higher Ed slow to adjust.
- Disrupt assessment
- De-skill what we've been teaching (coding, writing, data analysis, etc.)
- De-value education & learning
- All in a crowded online marketplace.

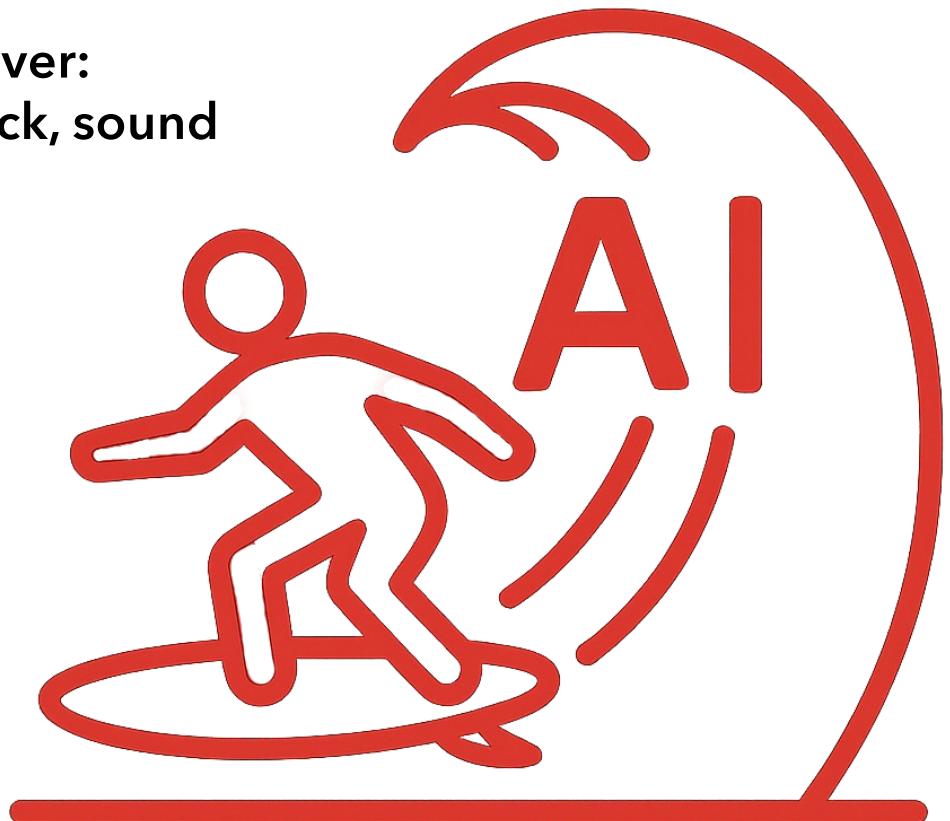
A Strategic Opportunity



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A Strategic Opportunity

- Double-down on what AI doesn't deliver: Human connection, formative feedback, sound judgment, and community.
- This was always a challenge for online education, but now we can do something about it.
- We do this by harnessing AI.
- Letting AI to do what it does best, and freeing time to let us do what we do best.



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What is the most critical priority for the College in developing its online strategy?

Producing a roadmap for faculty & learner AI adoption and tailored, concrete, unit-level guidance for implementation.

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1. Clarify what students are practicing when writing, especially when writing is used as a tool for learning.

AI

2. Increase focus on review and revision, where human judgment is essential.

3. Require students to show their work, making visible what cognitive work they performed.

4. Build a culture of consent and disclosure around AI use, so its role in writing is transparent and trusted.

Specific Steps - First Year Plan

0. Listen, Learn, Analyze Data

- History of A&S online efforts? Current reach & cost structure? Relevant market pressures & gaps? Marketing?
- Learn how our online strategy can complement other trends in Higher Ed: e.g., stackable micro-credentials & workforce-aligned skills.
- Connect with existing UC teams for online and AI literacy efforts -- CETL, Provost.
- Meet with Heads & other stakeholders about how this is playing out in their units, and their specific constraints.

0. AI-Literacy Undergrad Certificate

- Online and In-Person
- AI Ethics & Alignment
- Copyright and Fair Use
- Prompt Engineering
- Underlying Technology
- Environmental Implications, etc.
- *Especially relevant for COOP!*

Specific Steps - First Year Plan

1. Gather team/community of practice

- A small multi-disciplinary team interested in online/AI adoption. 4-5 people, to be expanded once steps 3+4 are underway.

2. Apply to relevant grants

- Davis Educational Foundation, Spencer, Patrick McGovern, etc.

3. Draft **concrete** AI guidelines and resources.

- Including *discipline-specific* policies and AI literacy modules for all faculty, from novice to routine users.



4. Construct 1-2 AI-enhanced pilot courses, with success metrics.

- Use as 'internal marketing' to attract further faculty participation. P
Use creators as seeds for AI-mentoring program, both fac and staff

Specific Steps - First Year Plan

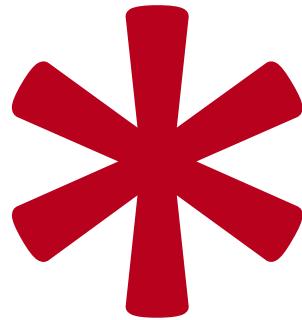
5. Create roadmap for expanded adoption across the curriculum.

- Including both existing and new courses.
- in light of market alignment, sustainability, and A&S priorities. (not every course should go online!)

You might also wonder....

Beyond online coursework, where is the greatest potential for technological innovation within A&S?

- **Recruiting, Advising, & Retention**
- **Same logic, different audiences**
 - e.g., let advisors be *advisors*.



Thank you

