

From: Meeting Summary with AI Companion no-reply@zoom.us
Subject: Meeting Summary for Peter Shea - Urgency of now: How AI can be used to solve problems of teaching and learning
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Meeting summary for Peter Shea - Urgency of now: How AI can be used to solve problems of teaching and learning (02/21/2025)

Quick recap

The meeting discussed the potential of AI in education, with a focus on community colleges leading the adoption of AI tools to solve educational problems. The development and use of various AI tools were highlighted, including tools for student writing assessment, email assistance, and simulation for enhancing soft skills. Concerns were raised about the over-reliance on AI tools and the need for educators to adapt their teaching methods in response to AI, with a focus on ensuring students use AI tools responsibly.

Next steps

- All attendees to explore and test the AI tools shared by Peter in the Google Doc link.
- Faculty to consider incorporating AI literacy into their curriculum and teaching practices.
- Cerritos College team to continue organizing and promoting the upcoming AI speaker series events in April.
- Angela Hopping to finalize and communicate details for the early April presentation by Professor Rick White on humanizing artificial intelligence.
- Janet to prepare for the late April presentation by Anna Mills on equipping professors to prepare students for an AI-driven world.
- Faculty to explore ways to integrate AI into their pedagogy while addressing concerns about student engagement with course materials.
- Cerritos College to continue developing institutional conversations and policies around AI use in education.
- Faculty to consider implementing tools like Hypothesis for annotations and Grammarly for authorship reports to encourage student engagement with course materials.
- Cerritos College team to explore the development of in-house AI tools for educational purposes.
- Faculty to engage in brown bag lunches and other informal discussions to share experiences and insights on using AI in education.

Summary

AI Companion and Meeting Recording

Kimberly Rosenfeld welcomes the attendees to the Friday morning meeting and introduces herself as a faculty member in the Communication Studies Department. The group discusses the use of an AI companion for the meeting, with Janet providing guidance on how to start and stop the recording feature.

AI's Impact on Education and Equity

Peter Shea, director of Professional and Instructional Development at Middlesex Community College, discusses the impact of AI on education. He argues that community colleges are well-positioned to lead in AI adoption due to their resourcefulness. Shea emphasizes the importance of viewing AI as a tool to solve educational problems, such as providing consistent feedback to students. He urges educators to develop AI literacy and adopt a thoughtful approach to its implementation, warning against both ignoring AI and rushing to adopt it without consideration. Shea also highlights the potential equity issues surrounding AI adoption in higher education.

AI in Education and Strategic Planning

Peter discussed the potential of AI to enhance teaching and learning experiences, emphasizing the importance of schools building their own tools rather than relying on proprietary vendors. He highlighted the Elon University guide on AI for students as a valuable resource for institutional conversations. Peter also introduced a strategic planning tool he developed with Devin Walton, which uses AI to generate plans aligned with a college's strategic plan. He stressed the tool's potential as a conversation starter and brainstorming aid, and noted the increasing sophistication of AI responses over time.

Developing Writing Tools for Improvement

Peter discussed the development of a tool that generates a draft letter based on user input, aiming to speed up the process of creating meaningful letters. He also mentioned a system that analyzes assignments, drawing upon cultural information to make suggestions for improvement. Peter further introduced 'Pretty Crown', a tool designed to help students overcome writing challenges by providing feedback on their paragraphs. He also mentioned a new tool being developed for student writing assessment and placement, and an email assistance tool for staff members. The goal of these tools is to improve writing skills by providing feedback and allowing users to internalize the suggestions over time.

AI Tools Development and Collaboration

Peter discussed the development and use of AI tools in his college, emphasizing the importance of problem-solving and collaboration. He explained that the tools were created by identifying problems and then using AI to augment human-based solutions. Peter also mentioned that he has a team of people who work on these tools and that he encourages others to use and test them. He further clarified that the technical expertise needed to build these tools is not high-level, but rather a good understanding of programming and computer science. Angela and Rosenfeld asked about the process of developing these tools and the technical expertise required, to which Peter responded that it's more about identifying problems and having the right people to solve them. He also mentioned that some of these tools could potentially replace existing ones, but the focus is on creating novel solutions.

Peter Showcases AI Tools in Education

Peter demonstrated the potential of AI in education by sharing a variety of tools he has created using AI. These tools include an assessment tool for nursing students, a

simulation tool for enhancing soft skills, a retrieval practice tool for reinforcing learning, and a tool for tracking the decay of knowledge. He emphasized the importance of trying out different AI tools, comparing their features, and considering their potential benefits and drawbacks. Peter highlighted that AI can help address previously intractable challenges in education, such as improving soft skills and reinforcing learning. He encouraged the use of generative AI tools like Grammarly as a gateway to more fully functional AI programs.

Integrating AI in Academic Settings

Peter discussed the potential benefits and challenges of integrating AI into academic settings. He emphasized the importance of using AI tools to enhance learning and prepare students for the workforce, rather than resisting them. Peter also highlighted the need for faculty to have a basic understanding of AI and its applications, and suggested that institutions should provide resources and support for faculty to learn and use AI effectively. Janet suggested a simple way for faculty to start using AI by having it generate assignments, which could then be refined and improved. Julie expressed concerns about students relying too heavily on AI and losing the ability to engage deeply with course materials. Peter responded by suggesting ways to use AI to encourage critical thinking and argumentation skills, such as having students interact with AI tools and generate reports.

AI Tools in Teaching and Learning

In the meeting, participants discussed the implications of AI tools in teaching and learning. Julie raised concerns about the reliance on AI tools like Grammarly, which might hinder students' development of writing skills and critical thinking. Peter suggested AI tools could be used to motivate students to study, but also expressed concerns about over-reliance. Kimberly and Janet emphasized the need for educators to adapt their teaching methods in response to AI, and to ensure students use AI tools responsibly. They also highlighted the importance of discussing AI use in their classes to prepare students for its role in their future careers. The group agreed to continue exploring these issues, with upcoming speakers scheduled to discuss AI literacy and its integration into pedagogy.

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