

**INSIDE**  
HIGHER ED

# Preparing Professors for a More Digital World



An *Inside Higher Ed* webcast  
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# Presenters

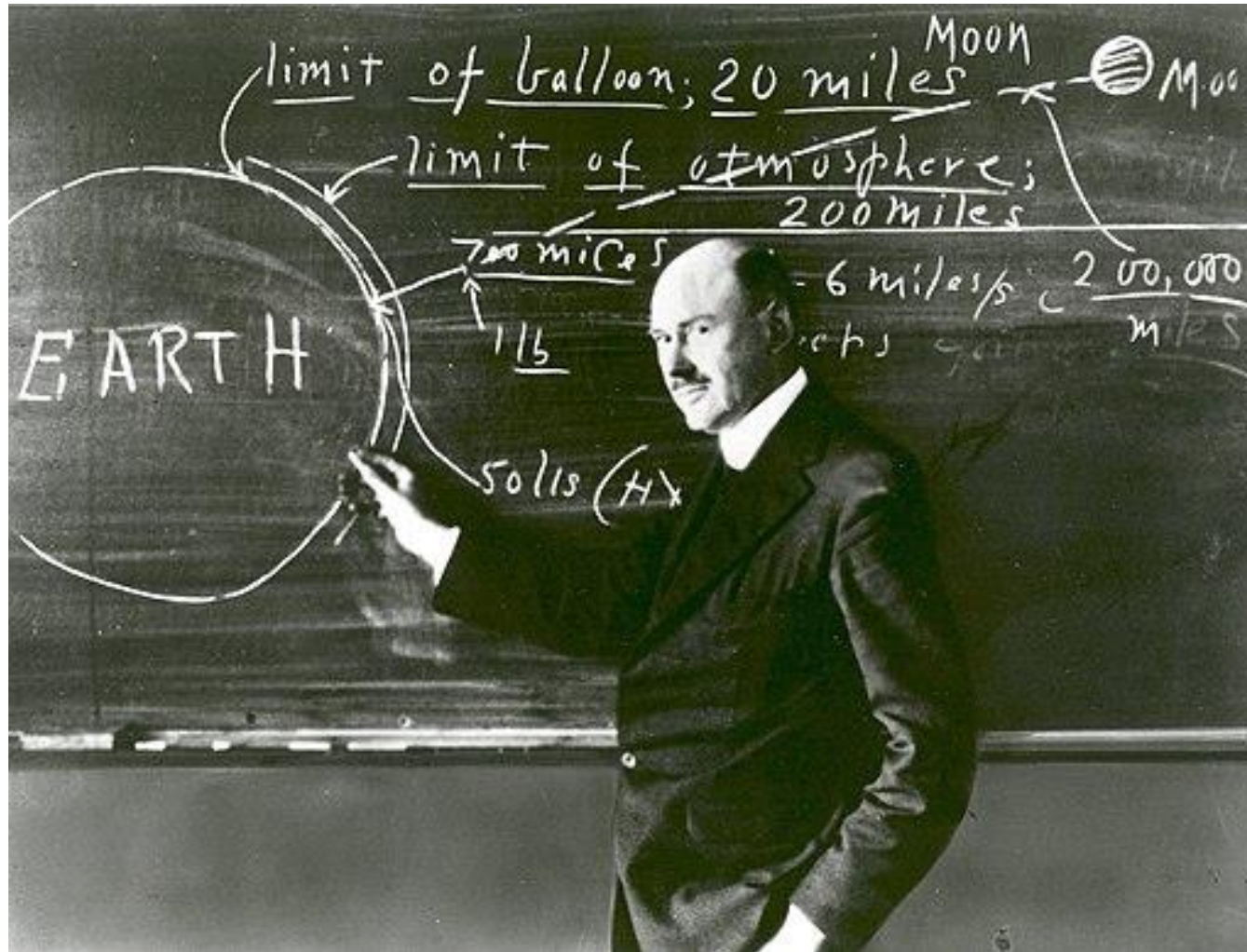


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# Professors: Innovators or Impediments?



NASA on The Commons; Wikimedia Commons



“Innovations often fail ... not because faculty are lazy or uninterested, but due to the sociology of bureaucratic organizations. Misguided incentives, inadequate supports and training, and organizational structures, rules and procedures that don’t easily enable innovation discourage many of the most far-sighted, creative and inventive faculty members.”

*--Steven Mintz  
University of Texas at Austin*

# Colleges Will Be (Somewhat) More Digital Going Forward

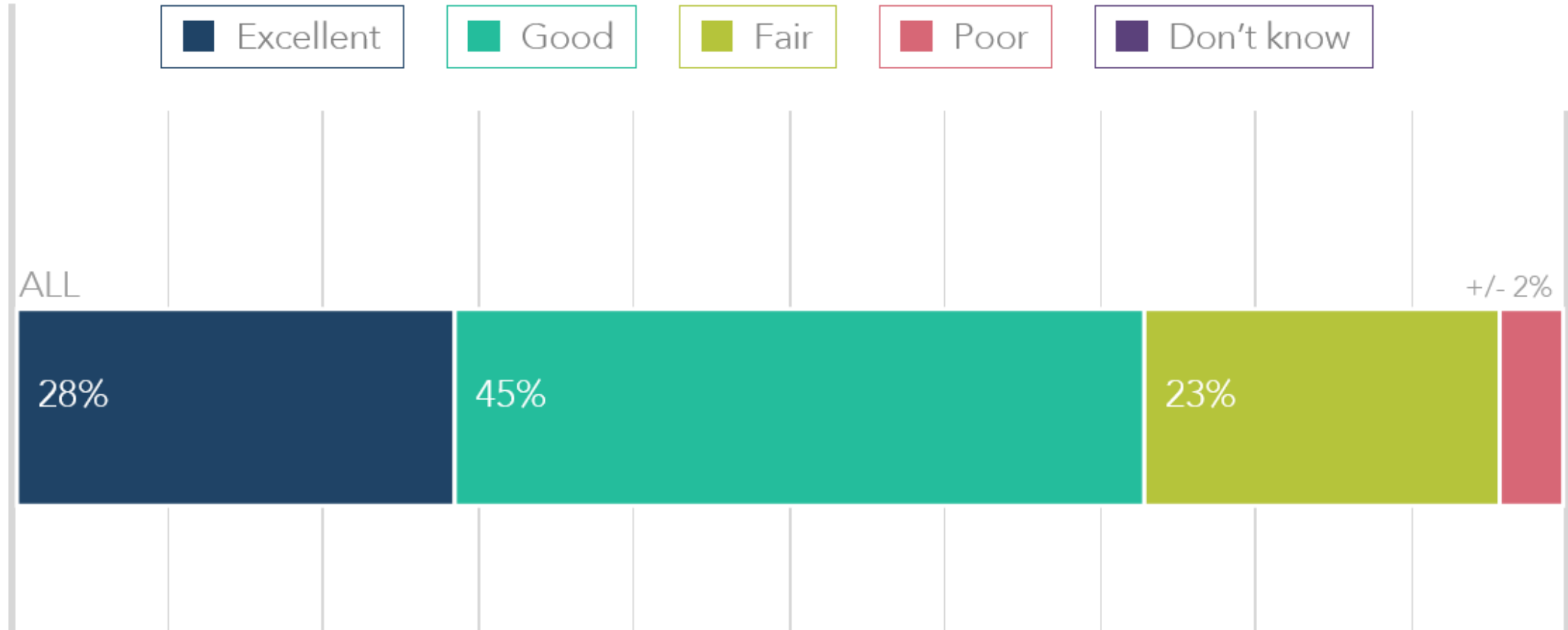
- Half of college presidents in IHE survey believe students will increasingly seek to enroll in virtual courses in coming years, and 83% say they will sustain online learning options embraced during the pandemic.
- But leaders on average said they expected proportion of courses they offer in-person to be higher in 2022-23 than in 2021-22.
- Colleges also pushing return to campuses (for mix of reasons), while many employees increasingly want to work remotely.

# Professors Are Not Luddites

- Even before the pandemic (a 2019 IHE survey), the vast majority of professors described themselves as either early adopters of technology (35%) or followers after they've seen colleagues use it (54%). Only 11% said they were disinclined to use technology.
- About 8 in 10 either fully (39%) or somewhat (41%) support the use of technology in the classroom.
- The pandemic forced experimentation and exposure that by all accounts increased instructors' comfort levels.



# Students Rate Professors' Use of Technology



*Student Voice survey of students; IHE/College Pulse/Kaplan*



# The Essential Faculty Role

- Landscape is littered with top-down efforts at digital innovation that failed to earn buy-in from the faculty – and thus failed.
- Administrators, tech companies, foundations all played a role.
- **Gates Foundation official on new digital courseware initiative:**  
*“In the past we’ve typically focused on technology. But we know that courseware is implemented by faculty, and that they need more support and better professional development tools, as well as good data to drive improved instructional practice.”*



# The Role of Teaching Centers

Centers can:

- Host a series of conversations with faculty about pedagogy.
- Provide specific teaching strategies to faculty—with data to support their efficacy if necessary—to help faculty guide students efficiently and effectively.
- Partner with colleagues on the campus (counseling centers, academic support centers, academic advisers, student leaders) to provide support for student learning.
- Have open-door policies with faculty to ensure that they are approachable and available.



# The Role of University Systems



# Professors as 'Learning Architects'

## Primary responsibilities:

- Transform their course into a journey and a community of inquiry with a goal of bringing all students to success.
- Design engaging, purposeful learning activities.
- Track, scaffold and proactively support student learning.
- Develop meaningful assessments that truly evaluate students' knowledge and skills, including their higher-order and critical thinking skills.
- Provide meaningful, substantive and useful feedback.

Steven Mintz: <https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/higher-ed-gamma/engineering-learning>

# Questions?

Thanks

**D2L**