

# I Now Pronounce You, Online and Transformative. A Marriage of Convenience?

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# Overview

- Active user of online technologies since the mid-90s
- Increase in the adoption of technology for all modes of delivery
- Online learning heavily used for distance students
- A University that is committed to access to higher education opportunities

# The marriage

## Education

- Education has transformative powers
- Education as a social good
- Education to change lives

## Technology

- Increase access to education
- Potential new educational models
- Contemporary educational experiences

# Marriage counselling

After 10 years of marriage it was time to face facts...and seek counselling.

- Student evaluations (previous 5 years) identified that the potential of the marriage was not being realised
  - ~30,000 student evaluations (~35-40% response rate)
  - 40,000+ student comments about the online experience

# Time for a break – “it’s not you, it’s me”

Students said that:

- The online experience was getting in the way of their education
- Transformative educational experiences were few and far between
- The potential was not being realised

# Learning to appreciate each other

- Transformative experiences don't just happen because education is made available
- Student expectations aren't unrealistic
- Online technologies can transform the educational experience, if they are used well

# The key to successful, satisfying and long marriage

- Have we considered how to get the most out of these relationships, before committing to them?
- Are we willing to accept that we have to change to maintain a healthy relationship?
- Who benefits from this relationship?