The Enlightenment of Open University Teaching System to University Education

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Abstract. The university education is becoming more comprehensive, international and more informative. The requirement is to share teaching resources cross universities as well as social communities. The paper introduces the teaching mode of Open University, and the practice of university education may benefit from the application of teaching mode of Open University. Some enlightenments and notes are highlighted while applying the mode of Open University teaching system.

1. Introduction

The new teaching mode, such as internet online teaching, promotes the reform of traditional university teaching mode. Students are expecting to have more autonomous and individualized learning experience. For example, students are able to learn courses anytime and anywhere, and can grasp the progress of their study and choose the learning environment according to their own knowledge and ability. They also can interact with the teachers as needed. For professors or teachers, they can reconstruct curriculum structure with contents that are not limited to the geographical boundaries of the universities. In the end, the university campus is transforming from the pure entity campus to the virtual and real combination of the community. For the university executive, the innovative technology makes the teaching management more effective.

This paper introduces the Open University teaching system which relies on thus innovative technology. Based on the trend analysis of university education, some enlightenments and notes are highlighted while applying the mode of Open University teaching system to existing university education.

2. The introduction of teaching mode of Open University

The principle of teaching mode of Open University is to provide sharing information, resources, as well as process cross students, teachers and university executive, not limited to specific campus, but open to whole society. While the teaching system is the core part of the new teaching mode.

The teaching system of Open University helps popularize the new mode of open education, improve students' learning experience and improve the core measures of students' service [1]. Open University teaching system makes university curriculum platform concept as the core, in order to provide full service to students from admission to graduation, and gradually establish a scalable Open University core teaching and learning platform (Figure 1).
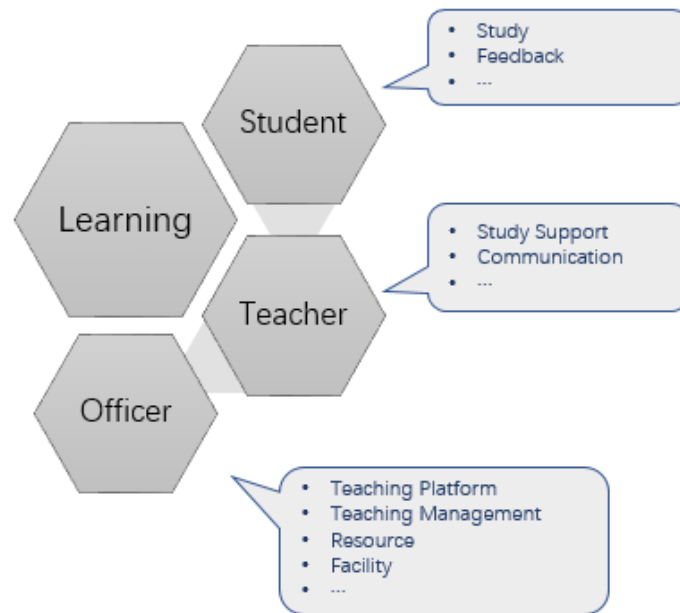
Figure 1 Open University Teaching Mode

By leveraging modern technology, such as big data, data mining etc., Open University teaching system is centrally planned and deployed with technology of cloud computing [2-4]. Teachers and students in every university community communicate in the same platform for teaching and learning through the network (Figure 2).
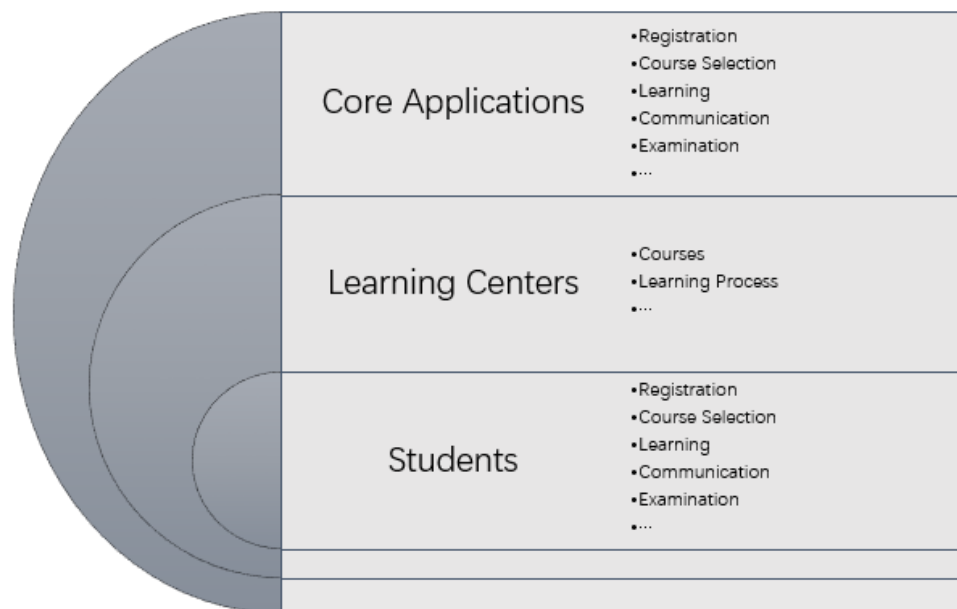

Figure 2 Teaching System of Open University

One of the important principals of above Open University teaching system is the mutual credit recognition cross the sharing resources, whether it comes from university or enterprise. This creates the flexibility of course selection.

3. The application of the teaching mode of Open University to University Education

3.1. The benefit of such application

Under such teaching mode, teachers can teach students subjects related to the latest technology through the information transmission and exchange. Meanwhile, students, underlying knowledge as the basis, can learn the knowledge in a full range and angle. This will greatly improve the learning interest of the students.

Upon the above teaching system of Open University, universities, teachers or students may gain the below benefits:

1. The platform can cover the complete process from registration, admission, course selection, study, communication, exam and online graduation, etc.
2. The core application administration on the platform sets the rules of professional and curriculum teaching. The universities issue defined teaching and test resources, supervise the teaching process which may help improve the teaching. Department of student services use platform and data to complete service for students
3. The learning platform, based on cloud computing architecture, is able to effectively connect and share the scattered resources of universities and enterprises, in order to establish the sharing of public education information service, core database and data service center. This may also contribute to establish and improve the high-speed interconnection of Internet, mobile, digital TV, satellite and other channels.
4. Importing such mode may promote the sharing and utilization of digital educational resources, which will change the overall outlook of university. Through the sharing of resources on the Internet, it is possible for us to learn and enjoy the most advanced teaching content and teaching methods.

3.2. Successful Open University teaching mode for reference

University of Phoenix in the United States established an Open University teaching system - UOPX system to monitor the learning experience for learners. After the learners are registered, their learning process are tracked for teachers and university officers to easily supervise and do the study support. In addition, according to the feedback of the information of the learning process, UOPX gives counselling and answering questions at 24 hours all day and analyzes the learning time and characteristics of each learner in time to adjust the content of the course and the difficulty of the examination [5].

Another good example is the Open University of the United Kingdom, which is recognized in the world as a milestone in the history of modern distance and open education. Their usage of information technology in the teaching is in the leading position in the world, making it the UK's largest online university. All of the courses in the UK Open University will be integrated with the media and methods to provide the learners with each unique choice to help gain learning experience. Specific for the curriculum design, in addition to some relatively stable course, reasonable additions and adjustment of the curriculum is made according to the needs of society lifelong learning [6-7].

3.3. Notes for applying the Open University mode

In order to effectively apply the teaching mode of Open University to university education, the following work needs to be further improved and implemented:

1. Establish the standardization of business information flow and smooth communication and cooperation cross universities and enterprises.
2. Establish data exchange and sharing system by unifying the data acquisition channel of the university teaching system.
3. Integrate and transform the university educational administration platform, online teaching platform and the test platform by following the one-stop service to better support the Open University mode

4. Build mutual credit recognition mechanism cross the sharing resources, whether it comes from university or enterprise, which can help create the flexibility of course selection and free flow of students.
5. Unify identity authentication to realize system interconnection and information exchange cross teaching, examination, study and office etc.

4. Conclusion

Relying on university own resource may not fulfill society's needs well. The requirement is to share teaching resource cross universities as well as enterprises. The practice of university teaching may benefit from the application of teaching mode of Open University. However, lots of work must be planned well and done in order to provide a flexible Open University mode for all teachers and students.

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