The Office of Faculty Development

The Constraints and Affordances of AI and ChatGPT in the Classroom

The integration of AI and tools like ChatGPT in the classroom represents a significant shift in educational paradigms. While offering innovative opportunities for personalized and accessible learning, these technologies also bring forth unique challenges and ethical considerations. It's crucial for educators and institutions to navigate these advancements carefully to enhance the learning experience while addressing potential constraints.

Affordances

- **Accessibility**-AI tools can make resources more accessible to students with disabilities or those learning in different languages.
- **Efficiency**-Save time by using AI to generate content for lessons, create assignments, or provide feedback.
- **Personalized Learning**- AI can aid in the development of activities that tailor content to individual student needs, enhancing learning experiences.

Constraints

- **Ethical Concerns-**The use of AI in education raises privacy, consent, and the need for transparent and ethical use of AI.
- **Reliability and Accuracy**-AI may sometimes provide inaccurate or inappropriate information.
- **Decreased Engagement**-The lack of real-time feedback and interaction with AI tools may lead to decreased engagement, motivation, and intellectual growth among learners.

Dialogue Sparkers

1. **What potential do you see in AI and/or ChatGPT for enhancing learning and/or teaching in the/your classroom?**
2. **Have you used AI or ChatGPT in your teaching or research. What were the outcomes? What did you learn?**
3. **What ethical considerations or concerns do you have about using AI in education?**

Additional Resources

- ChatGPT in education: global reactions to AI innovations
  - Fütterer, T., Fischer, C., Alekseeva, A., Chen, X., Tate, T., Warschauer, M., & Gerjets, P. (2023). ChatGPT in Education: Global Reactions to AI Innovations
- AI: New Source of Competitiveness in Higher Education
  - Hannan, E. and Liu, S. (2023), "AI: new source of competitiveness in higher education", Competitiveness Review, Vol. 33 No. 2, pp. 265-279
- Integrating Generative AI into Higher Education: Considerations by Charles Hodges and Ceren Ocak
- Benefits, Challenges, and Sample Use Cases of Artficial Intelligence in Higher Education by Inside Higher Ed
- American Association of Colleges and Universities offer this PDF with extensive resources