

Managing student transition and retention

Professor Mary Malcolm

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic)

Non-continuation rates from year of entry (full-time 05-06 entrants)



	Men	Women
Young entrants	7.9%	6.5%
Mature entrants	17.0%	12.3%

HEPI (2009)

“Well if you are doing really well, people have a go at you, call you a suke, but if you are doing crap they will call you a waster or something like that”

Bartley (2004)

***“I’ve got a prospectus, module
descriptors and half a timetable!”***

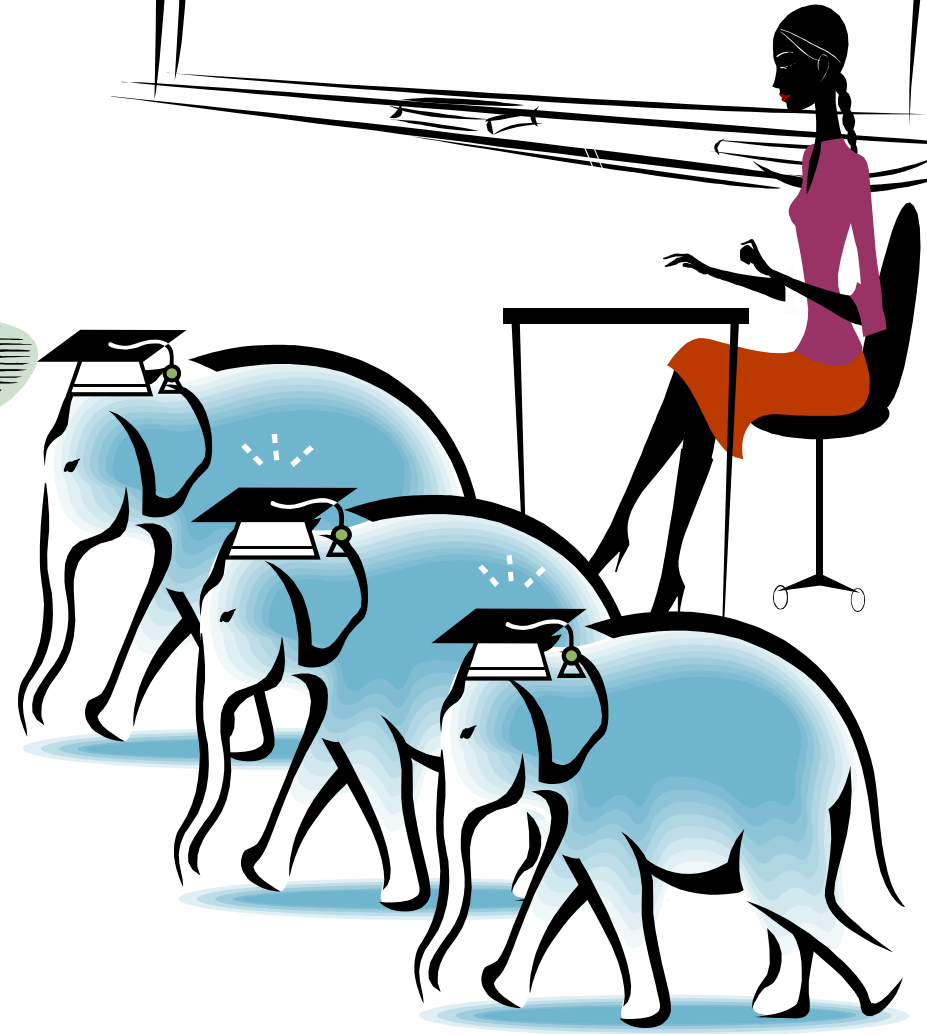
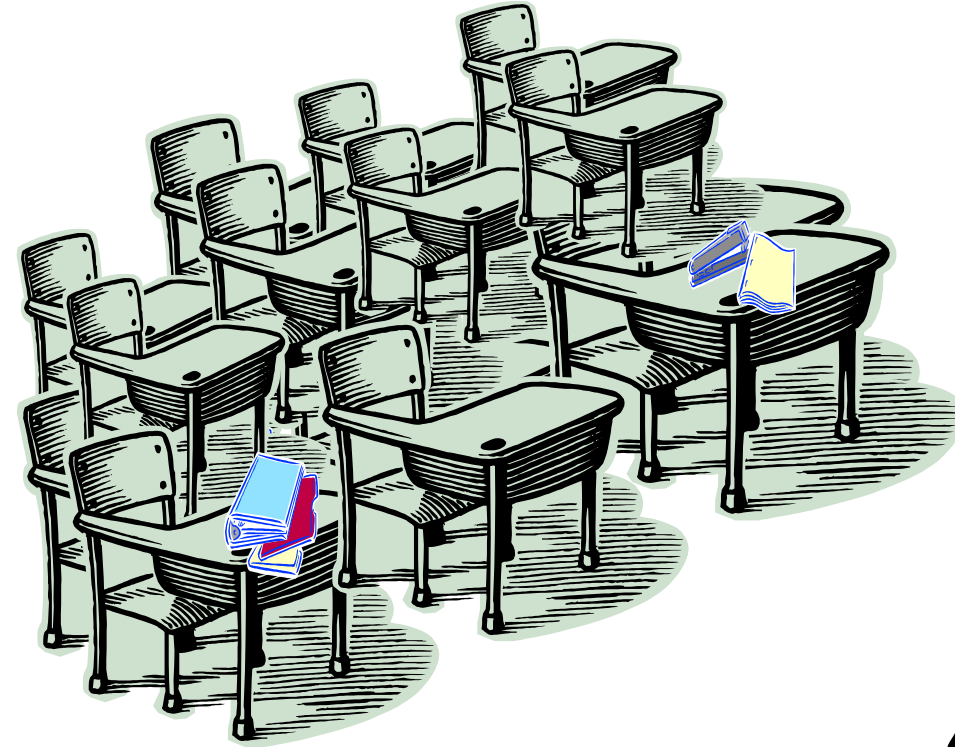
SFC (2005)

‘Managing the first-year transition is not a unilateral activity. University management ought not to assume that they are the only ones managing students. Students may be heading in exactly the opposite direction, away from the university, managed by other actors, such as a parent, girlfriend/boyfriend or employer’

Palmer et al. (2009)

*“I’m having a great time at uni...
The course is good and I’ve made
lots of new friends... They’re not
like my real friends of course, and I
have to study, so don’t get to see my
real friends every night like I did
before”*

From a first-year student blog



Dispositions to stay and to learn



ELLI Dimension	Description	Graduate dispositions
Changing and learning	A sense of myself as someone who learns and changes over time.	Will to learn
Meaning making	Making connections and seeing that learning “matters to me”.	Will to engage
Creativity	Risk-taking, playfulness, imagination and intuition.	Preparedness to explore
Critical curiosity	An orientation to want to “get beneath the surface”.	Preparedness to listen
Interdependence	Learning with and from others and also able to manage without them.	Determination to keep going forward
Strategic awareness	Being aware of my thoughts, feelings and actions as a learner, and able to use that awareness to manage learning processes.	
Resilience	The readiness to persevere in the development of my own learning power.	



References



Barnett, R. (2009). Knowing and becoming in the higher education curriculum. *Studies in Higher Education*, June 2009

Bartley, U. (2004). *More School? Factors affecting decisions to apply to Higher Education Institutions among under-represented young people*. Edinburgh: Universities Scotland, 2004.

HEPI (2009). *Male and female participation and progression in higher education*, June 2009

Palmer et al. (2009). *Betwixt spaces: student accounts of turning point experiences in the first-year transition*. *Studies in Higher Education*, February 2009

SFC (2005). *Subject-specific articulation from higher national qualifications to degree studies*. Scottish Funding Council Project, 2005