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August 6, 2012 - Chaouki Abdallah

I personally believe that MOOCs are here to stay but that a model of how to provide high quality education efficiently while maintaining a viable financial model for public universities is yet to be invented. Information wants to be free, and faculty members would love nothing more than to teach for tens of thousands of students. State governments and officials love to point to the efficiency in a model where you can have one person teaching for an ever increasing number of students. The public university funding model - which however remains largely dependent on the number of paying students and the quality of delivery, let alone the quality of the material and academic support - is yet to become scalable. Moreover, at a time when fewer high school graduates come to college prepared to do college-level work, will MOOCs make a dent in the cost structure since they are targeted to those advanced and more mature students? What do you think a viable model of delivering higher education might look like in ten years?