Speaker 1

How do you and your colleagues use technology now?

**Speaker 2 (Professor Paul Cleveland)**

In a limited way, and I think that has to do with the fact that most of our academics are getting on in years, and some of them very close to retirement, so out of a pool of say 50 continuing academics, I would say there’s probably only ten who would be in the digital generation. Therefore, the uptake in terms of e-learning and so forth is very slow, and what it requires, it actually requires a sort of a concerted effort and direction to actually implement any of this stuff because nobody wants to do it.

**Speaker 1**

How do you think you and your colleagues will be using technology in 2020?

**Speaker 2**

I think that in 2020, we’re going to see a complete change in the way we do business at a university. I think lectures will have gone, because lectures at the moment are the distribution of information which we have better media that can do it. We have students who no longer want to be told what time they have to come to classroom. They will determine when they want their learning to happen, and to some extent we can do that already, and we use social media also to also bring groups together, which is something that was artificially done in tutorials previously and now we can get like minded people to think like mindedly together to actually help themselves in their learning. The other thing is the investment in technology for the university, I think it’s no longer practical for us to be putting in laboratories of computers for students to use. Just about every student has a laptop these days, and I think we did a survey last year on the Gold Coast and 80% of those students had their own laptop and didn’t really want to go to a lab to do their work. They were very happy to find their own space to do it themselves.

My suggestion is, we only provide maybe large screens and keyboards for the students to bring their own technology to plug it in, whatever they want it to be, whether it’s you know hard drives that they can plug into their own devices and so forth.

**Speaker 1**

What core skills will research academics need in 2020?
Speaker 2

Well, I think the greatest issue here is communication between academics in terms of research projects, and at the moment, obviously email is the way it mostly happens, especially international, unless you can get to a conference where you know a colleague is, or so forth. But more and more, technology like Skype is becoming so commonplace that that will be the kind of communication device that will become the most common. Not the telephone, not really the email, because the email, you can’t actually have a one to one conversation. It’s kind of disjointed. You’ve got to wait for the reply, and so forth, whereas using Skype and that kind of media, what you can have is you can have two, three four people, all engaging, all crossing across each other with ideas and so forth. The free flow of information.

Speaker 1

What core skills will learning and teaching academics need in 2020?

Speaker 2

[This appears to be answering another question]
They will need a lot of social media. To put modules up that don’t need to be face to face, that they can do other intuitive ways of providing information to students that’s – what could we say, probably, probably more entertaining than just reading it out of a book.

Speaker 1

Will it still be important to have a physical place to learn?

Speaker 2

To some extent, there needs to be some face to face, but it doesn’t have to be the hours that we do at the moment, and I think certainly in post graduate study, I would see it being important.

[end of recording]