



RedInk – St. Gallen

Learning Cultures at Higher Education Institutions

Prof. Dr. Dieter Euler
University St. Gallen



Learning Cultures – some extremes ...

From Humboldt ...

- Learning as a way of life, learning & research
- Teaching as elaboration of one's own research
- Students as apprentices of their professor



... to Bologna?

- Learning as a series of modules
- Teaching as a technical preparation for work-life
- Students as consumers of the services of an university





Learning Cultures – need for more knowledge ...

Both may exist – but only on a small scale ...

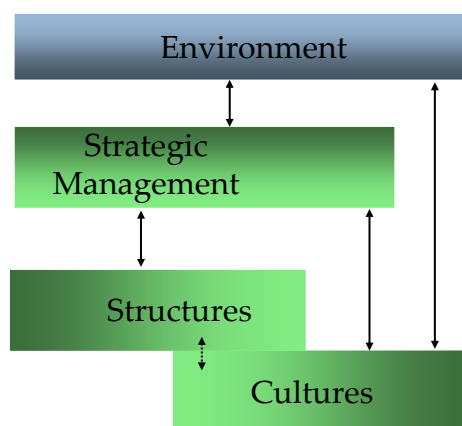
What we are interested in:

1. How are learning cultures really like at different universities, faculties, disciplines, programs, courses etc.?
2. What effect do learning cultures have on student achievement?
3. How can learning cultures be influenced by strategic & operational measures of university management?
4. ...

Prof. Dr. Dieter Euler



Reference frame (1): Starting point from organizational theory ...

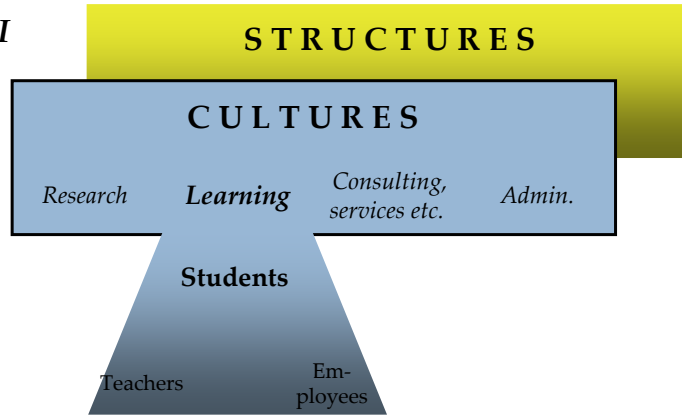


Prof. Dr. Dieter Euler



Focussing on student learning ...

HEI

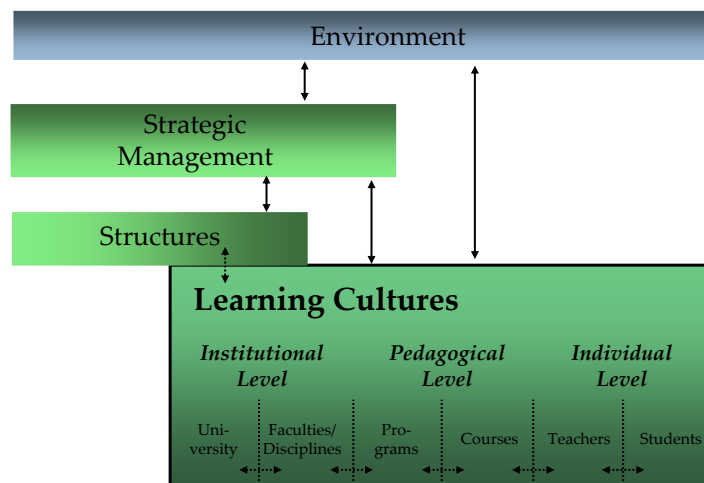


What variables do have an impact on the learning cultures of students?

Prof. Dr. Dieter Euler



Reference frame (2): Levels for investigating learning cultures ...



Prof. Dr. Dieter Euler



Understanding 'Learning Cultures'

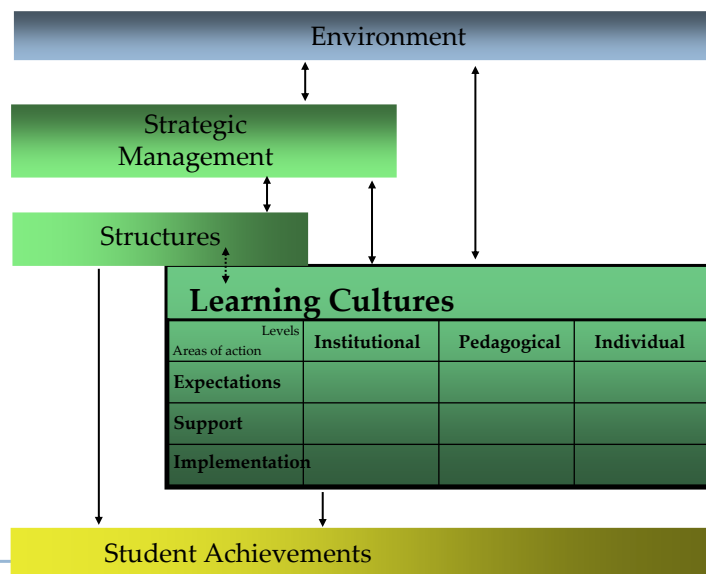
Learning Cultures as

1. **Expectations** on 'good' teaching & learning
2. Ways for **supporting** 'good' teaching & learning
3. Practice of **implementation** of teaching & learning in HEI

Prof. Dr. Dieter Euler



Reference frame (3)



Prof. Dr. Dieter Euler



Putting learning cultures into operational terms

- 1. Expectations on teaching & learning**
 - Programmatic statements (4)
 - Expectations towards teaching personnel (5)
- 2. Support of teaching & learning**
 - Offerings for advancing pedagogical competencies (7)
 - Availability of material support (5)
- 3. Implementation of teaching & learning**
 - Professional planning and development of programs and courses (5)
 - Practical realization of teaching and learning (18)

Prof. Dr. Dieter Euler



Measures for shaping learning cultures

- 1. Awareness: Communication instruments**

e.g. Mission Statement, leadership commitment, information policy
- 2. Empowerment: Offerings for competency development**

e.g. seminars, consulting, external coaching, media, student feedback communities-of-practice
- 3. Incentives**

e.g. resources for innovative teaching projects, teaching award, access to rewarding courses
- 4. Interactive leadership**

e.g. integration into target agreements, coaching by superiors, job rotation
- 5. Structural frame**

e.g. teaching point system, rigorous QA-procedures, teaching quality as part of recruitment criteria

Prof. Dr. Dieter Euler



Research areas (ProDoc-Program St. Gallen)

1. Descriptive (partly comparative) case-studies to understand learning cultures at different levels
2. Impact of learning cultures on student achievement
3. Intervention studies testing the impact of selected measures for shaping learning cultures on different variables (DBR etc.)

Prof. Dr. Dieter Euler