The 54ᵗʰ International October Conference on Mining and Metallurgy
18-21 October 2023, Bor Lake, Serbia
www.ioc.tfbor.bg.ac.rs

<u>**INVITED LECTURE**</u>

THE ONGOING RESTRUCTURING OF UNIVERSITIES TO ADOPT THE SOPHISTICATION OFFERED BY INTERNET

Batric Pesic

University of Idaho, College of Engineering, Moscow, ID 83843, USA

Abstract

This paper, although it does not address the technical context of the conference, does instigate the need for planning future methodology of academics engaging in passing their knowledge (teaching) to students and other audiences. Due to advancement of the internet, almost instantaneous communication with anyone, anywhere, in the world is enforcing the new methods of knowledge transfer, referred as the online teaching. Although very effective and advantageous, it does affect the key parameter, the enrollment as the revenue generator, of traditional "brick and mortar" universities. The prediction is that many colleges and universities must close the programs and/or go bankrupt. The most vulnerable university entities will be the so-called satellite colleges, those at a distance from the main university campus. In this paper key trigger issues for discussion, invoked by the power of digital communications, are: is there a need for so many universities, reduce the number of online courses and share the same among universities, libraries became mainly digitized thus merge them with university IT service, etc.? These are the key topics discussed in-person at the conference. After the material for in-person presentation was completed, the same issues are queried to get the "second opinion" from the artificial intelligence (AI). The results are presented in the body of this paper below. Considerable agreement was revealed.

Keywords: *Online teaching, University restructuring, IT and library merging, Online courses sharing*