

# NC<sup>5</sup> Symposium on Technology In The Classroom

*Questions we hope to address:*

- What ways have you seen **technology** used to *effectively* improve **learning**?
- When is it just not worth it? When does it get in the way?

## **Instructional Technology–Examples**

- Chalkboard
- Whiteboard
- Flip chart
- PowerPoint
- Internet
- Projection screen
- Graphing calculators; analog and digital sensing instruments or probes
- Computers
- CDs
- Simulators
- Overhead projector
- Videos

## **Effective Learning**

Use media to deliver the message

How do you measure learning?

Can students apply what they learn?

Performance testing

Technology can degrade the quality of information (body language, voice inflections)

Technology must enhance sound pedagogy

Bloom's Taxonomy (levels of learning)

Learning styles (visual, auditory, kinesthetic)

Technology can enable self-paced learning

Student learning outcomes should guide our use of any classroom technology

## **What's getting in the way?**

Student's poor time management skills – Generation “Next”

More distracting world (iPods, internet, blogs, MySpace, cell phones, text messaging)

Hard to find time to learn new technology (students and faculty)

Expense of keeping up with new technology (students, faculty and colleges)

Overwhelming information – information overload (too much information)

Cost/ Benefit: Is the benefit of the particular technology worth the cost?

Can we accomplish the same educational goal with less money?

## **When does technology impede learning?**

When it's broken...and you don't have 'Plan B'

When web site is poorly designed

When the wrong tool is used, or it's used improperly

PowerPoint is good for presentations, but maybe not for teaching

Students don't take notes during PowerPoint

Some faculty don't know how to use PowerPoint effectively

When there's too much technology – it can overwhelm the student

When students expect everything to be available later or online

When it promotes "laziness"

When it focuses on the technology, not the learning

Just because you can use technology doesn't mean you should

When it's used to avoid responsibilities

Put everything on the web and expect student to do work without instructor

When it excludes non-techies

Some in class may not have computers

Some in class may not know how to use technology well

Language and cultural issues

## **How do we overcome the impediments?**

Have 'Plan B'

PowerPoint 'notes' feature – If you have to use PowerPoint, print out the notes

Carry backup files in other forms or formats

Continuing education for faculty

## **What were your Ah-Ha! Moments?**

Limit what is put online...control the content

Don't just put everything on the website and walk away

Put things up and take things down on a schedule so students have to keep up

Keep your eyes on the horizon

Why am I doing this? What is the goal?

Self-paced instruction is a double-edged sword

Works for about 5% of the students

Most students need and appreciate structure

Be over-prepared

If something breaks, you can still carry on

Keep accessibility in mind

Disabled students may not be able to use web site or see/hear presentations

Dialogue is GOOD

Between faculty and student

Between faculty and other teachers

Between support staff and faculty

## **What are you taking away from this symposium?**

Share this information with others

Establish a Distance Learning listserv

Learn more about education stuff—learning styles etc.

Want to have information from this meeting sent to everyone

Want names of everyone for contacts

## **What next for NC5?**

The ‘old’ NC5 may no longer be a viable model.

Big meetings, lots of sessions and speakers, lots of topics

Big meetings are too expensive, need too much planning

Still a need for NC5 as a group that talks about the future

There are now lots of specialized groups—distance learning, libraries, etc.

Bring in other consortia?

NC5 is best for interdisciplinary discussions and sharing

Symposium idea is good, but so is a meeting with many different themes

## **Topics for future symposia or meetings**

- Diversity and technology
- Creating a community in a technology-centered world
- Sharing success stories (demos of things that work—labs, presentations?)
- Video case studies
- PowerPoint ‘best practices’
- Online practices and politics
  - What works, what doesn’t work
  - Improving the reputation of online instruction
- Maximizing multiple learning styles in instruction (visual, auditory, kinesthetic)
- Software familiarization
  - How do you use this for instruction?
- Classroom assessment
- Training outside academia
  - How is training done in the business community?
  - Training versus education
- Establish standards for technology use
  - “NC5 certification” for a course or educational practice?

## **Who to contact for future meetings, for meeting ideas/suggestions, or to help the NC5 planning team:**

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