THE PILOT PROJECT

In a spring ’08 pilot project, nine faculty members used Turning Points clickers to monitor student attendance. Some faculty also used the clickers to quiz students’ understanding of course content during lectures. Clickers provided a convenient, electronic system for taking attendance in a few seconds, thus, saving precious class time.

According to Ron Steed, a long-time user of clickers, the classroom experience has been very positive. He stated that “Most of my students like using the clickers, and it’s easy for me to take attendance. In addition, I use the clickers for formative assessment, and the feedback I see from responses helps me understand what my students are getting from my presented material.”

Faculty learned to use the clickers in a 90-minute workshop, facilitated by Dr. Steed, and had support throughout the semester to solve technical problems as they arose.

The graphs below show the results of the faculty and student surveys conducted at the end of the semester. Overall, the majority of both groups “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the clicker technology was easy to use and made attendance monitoring much easier.

FACULTY RESPONSES: SELECTED QUESTIONS

Q3. The use of the clickers made attendance monitoring easy.

Q7. The technology was difficult for the students to circumvent.

Q8. The software accurately recorded the attendance of students.
STUDENT RESPONSES: SELECTED QUESTIONS

Q1. The clicker technology accurately recorded my class attendance.
POSITIVE vs. NEGATIVE RESPONSES

Q2. The clicker technology was easy for me to use.
POSITIVE vs. NEGATIVE RESPONSES

Q3. The clicker functioned reliably.
POSITIVE vs. NEGATIVE RESPONSES

NOTES

Faculty Survey Respondents:
- Question 3: 7 faculty
- Question 7: 8 faculty
- Question 8: 8 faculty

Students Survey Respondents (9 classes):
- Question 1: 247 students
- Question 2: 248 students
- Question 3: 246 students

Thanks to Kenneth Williams for developing the survey and Ronald Steed for the data analysis.

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