

University of Northern Iowa Faculty's Use of Instructional Technology

Survey Conducted: October 25 to November 10, 2004

Assessment Purpose: To gather information related to the use of instructional technology by faculty at UNI. To inform the UNI Educational Technology Advisory Council of the current use of technology in instruction, how faculty would like to use technology, and what types of support they need to be successful at integrating technology into their teaching and students' learning.

Participants: Participants in the assessment were UNI faculty listed on three e-mail lists from the Human Resource Department's listing. Tenured and non-tenured faculty were included, however, institutional officials and academic administrators who also teach were not included. A total of 708 faculty were asked to respond to the online survey. Respondents numbered 247 or approximately 35%. The majority rated their level of expertise as a computer user in the range of intermediate to expert level.

Survey Tool: An online questionnaire was used that contained a combination of quantitative and qualitative items. The questions or statements were written in combination by the Educational Technology staff and the Educational Technology Advisory Council. Sixteen questions or statements were included.

General Observations

- To do their work for UNI, the majority uses a computer in their office or at home daily.
- Thirty-seven percent use a computer in the classroom daily.
- The majority uses a desktop with windows operating system--Thirty percent use a laptop regularly to do their work.
- In the classroom, the primary technology used is a desktop computer, LCD, overhead projector, and VCR.
- Word processing, email, and the Internet are applications most utilized on a daily basis to do work for UNI.
- In conducting class, 39% never have students use computers as part of the learning activities during class time; 24% do use computers as part of the learning activities several times a semester; 11% once a week; 9% each class time
- If there were a facility such as StudioIT available with 60 laptops, 39% would use it, with 39% perhaps to use it (this would be a facility twice as large as the current StudioIT).
- When needing technical help, the majority go to department/college technology support staff, then other colleagues, then the Computer Consulting Center.
- The majority prefers hands-on workshops for learning about technology; least preferred is learning about technology at discipline specific conferences, over the telephone, and online.
- Primary concerns about using technology for doing work are: not enough time, need upgraded hardware/software.
- Most already use or would like to use the web more for: email, submitting final grades, WebCT, accessing on-line reserves, collaborations and research, electronic portfolios, streaming media.

- Top items that should be available in the classroom: Overhead transparency, VCR, DVD, CD player, computer, projector, laptop hookup for projector
- What resources are missing from faculties' offices: digital cameras, scanners, DVD player, laptops, software, newer equipment, better printers
- What resources are missing from the classroom: sound system, CD player, computers, DVD, Chalk, elmos, projectors, smartboards, classrooms with computers/laptops for students, more multimedia equipped classrooms