

TLC ROUNDTABLE NOTES
Thursday, October 4, 2012

Norah welcomed the faculty to the meeting and introduced TLC Faculty Fellow Larry Hartzell. Norah and Larry will be facilitating a roundtable at the League for Innovation StemTech Conference in October dealing with student technology in the classroom.

Norah and Larry, facilitators of this Roundtable, introduced the topic: Are there cases where we want our students to use personal technology devices in the classroom? How can we incorporate these activities to invigorate lectures and discussions and group work while focusing on meeting our learning objectives?

Cell phone, laptop, videotaping or iPad use in the classroom:

- Some faculty have a “no cell phone use in the classroom” policy. It was confirmed for Ron Sopenoff that students are able to take notes on cell phones. Ron added that, if for example, the class needs a definition, he will ask someone to Google it and report to the class. Diana Glynn uses Google Scholar which filters the information and leaves empirical articles.
- Christine Greco added that not everyone has a smart phone.
- Some students use the calendar function to schedule due dates, meetings, etc.
- Diana Glynn permits cell phones if a student has a child in day care.
- Several faculty allow students to use their computers or iPads to take notes. Ron asks to see the notes at the end of the class.
- Christine allows note taking and walks around the classroom to be sure the students are not distracted by others surfing the web, on Facebook, etc.
- Bob McGovern asks students to leave if use of technology is excessive. He will also take points off for texting in the classroom.
- Larry Hartzell does not permit texting and after a warning, will take the phone from the student. An exception is if something is in question and can be looked up on the phone and is valuable to all students, the cell phone can be used. He does permit note taking on a computer.
- Mohammad Shanehsaz checks use by going to the back of the room to see all the monitors. He also checks the task manager to see what sites they have been accessing during the course.
- Vic Catalano said that in some Florida high schools, every student is issued an iPad. Larry noted that more and more and more of our students will have iPads as the prices go down. Five years from now, it would be safe to assume that all students will have one.
- Ron added that he had read an article where the Secretary of Education noted that textbooks are on the way out because of the newest technology available to students.
- Dan, Mohammad and Mike Quissaunee have had students videotaping class lectures after asking permission.
- Norah noted that not only the lecture would be recorded but other students in the class. It should be stressed that the recording should be “for your own use.” Diana added that there must be an agreement between the instructor and the student.

- Dara Evans stressed the danger of videotaping in a classroom. Items can be emailed and/or sent to YouTube. Students must agree that the content is for their use only.
- Norah noted that in her SPCH 115 class, students had their speeches videotaped using cameras in the classroom. Now the speeches can be recorded on smart phones. Cameras are becoming obsolete.
- Many issues arise including phones surreptitiously recording lectures, students talking about classroom experiences on video, on Facebook, etc.
- Christine explained that in high school the classroom computers are synced to the teacher's computer so the instructor is aware of each student's use. At Brookdale, there is no control over the student's computer.

Suggestions for coping with technology use in the classroom included:

- Bob makes his PowerPoint presentations available in ANGEL to supplement the note taking in class; students can then take notes on what he says, not copy the PowerPoint.
- Ron stressed that note taking is a valuable skill to be encouraged.
- Norah tells her students to "write what I say" and access the PowerPoints in ANGEL. Dara added that instructors are "not respected" when they read from PowerPoint slides.
- Diana noted that some students tell her they don't know how to take notes and/or don't know how to study. She explained that the more muscle groups you use, the easier it will be to remember the material.
- Dan reported that in his online course at Old Dominion University (ODU), he is required to write a reflection post after a specified reading. He highlights important material while he is doing the reading and then goes back to compose his reflection using his highlighted notes.

Conclusions:

- The faculty generally confirmed that good students take advantage of the various media made available to them including videos, PowerPoint presentations, online discussions, textbooks with supplementary material, etc.
- Mike felt that the upcoming generations are changing but we aren't. Technology empowers students but it can also be used in "bad ways". "We need to find better ways to use technology in the classroom."
- Larry said that technology by itself is "amoral." Norah added that the student has a responsibility to use technology constructively and "we have to understand the possibility of abuse."
- Christine, who teaches PSYC courses, said that "always trying to enhance learning of students can be overwhelming."
- Larry commented on how quickly hardware and software evolve. For example, hours are invested in mastering Camtasia and then something better comes along. He goes to Mike Qaissaanee for cutting edge technology. Others questioned whether it is better to do research to enhance teaching or to learn new technology.

- Many faculty assume that all students have a working, up-to-date computer at home. However, that may not be the case so they must be informed about computer access here a BCC in the library and in the Higher Ed Centers. Larry added that out of 73 students, only one had no cable Internet access at home. Linda Wang said everyone now knows ANGEL and some of her students go to Starbucks for Internet access.
- Christine finds that most of her students now are familiar with ANGEL but some returning students still have problems.
- Larry may redo HIST 135 with an eBook.
- Mike suggested that when the college gets new computers, the older ones could be recycled and put into the community.

Norah concluded the meeting with the assertion that the majority of the faculty are computer literate and 50% of the courses are web enhanced. She thanked everyone for coming and remarked that it “was a great discussion.”

Attendees:

Vic Catalano
Dara Evans
Diana Glynn
Bob McGovern
Christine Greco
Dan Greenwood
Mike Qaissaunee
Mohammad Shanehsaz
Ron Sopenoff
Ashley Tasy
Linda Wang
Maria Beyer