Polling within the Classroom

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Senate Technology Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:
Clickers have been the standard polling system used on campus for the last 10 years. The company that supports Clickers has come out with an option for mobile devices on campus that can be used in parallel with the current polling software for a greatly lowered cost for students. Because of the advancement in technology, the committee recommends that students be allowed to use mobile devices or physical clickers in the classroom when using polling to save cost and to continue with the practice of only one polling software on campus.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. A pilot study of the mobile device option was conducted on campus in fall 2015 with 14 instructors and 1400 students.
   - Faculty and students reported a positive response to the use of the polling software and having the option to use a mobile device.
   - Students reported that polling helped them learn in the classroom.
   - Students did not want to pay for the technology regardless of the usefulness in the classroom.
2. After the pilot study, a survey of instructors related to the use of mobile devices was completed.
   - Fifty-six faculty and academic instructional staff completed the survey. Instructors were asked if they would allow mobile devices in their classrooms if having a mobile device allowed students to only pay $10 per semester to use a mobile device, instead of purchasing a physical clicker.
   - 72% said yes, with 10% saying they wouldn’t use physical clickers, and 18% worried about it being a distraction.
   - When looking only at the instructors who would utilize the polling software, the number who would allow mobile devices in the classroom jumps to 84%.
   - Adoption by some instructors may increase when there is no high direct cost to students to use the technology.
3. The polling software is the same for the physical clicker and the mobile device option, with the current version able to integrate with the D2L grade book.
4. The current physical clicker cost is $55. The mobile device option costs $10 per semester.
5. The polling software company is willing to offer a site license for $7.50/per student/ per year. Cost is based on per use and not overall student population.
6. The Information Technology Commission (ITC) of Student Senate is interested in discussing the possibility of funding a site license for the polling software if mobile devices are approved as an option in the classroom.
7. This recommendation of mobile devices in the classroom is for polling only.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. Lowers the cost for students
2. Ensure one standard polling software for campus
3. Consistency across campus for students and faculty.
4. Pedagogical and technical support for both the physical clickers and mobile device options is already being provided for both students and instructors.
5. Academic Policies Committee, Student Senate, and Information Technology Commission of the Student Senate all support this motion.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact:
1. Reduces the resources needed to support 2 different software polling systems to accommodate only clicker or mixed classrooms.
2. One-time classroom download for faculty and one-time registration for students saves time for all.
3. Pedagogical and technical support for both the physical clickers and mobile device options is already being provided for both students and instructors.

Committee Recommendation:

Students will be allowed to use either a mobile device or a physical device of a single polling system as recommended by the senate technology committee in classrooms where instructors choose to poll students.

The following statement would be added to the Faculty and Academic Staff Rules and Procedures Part III- Academic Policies, Article Six, Section B- Instructional Policies and Procedures (page 127). It would appear between Student Purchase of Supplies and Overview of Courses.

**Polling in the Classroom**
Faculty and Academic Staff have the option to use polling in the classroom. One standard polling system in the classroom is adopted on campus. When using the standard polling system, students shall be allowed to use either the mobile device option or a physical clicker in the classroom. Pedagogical and technical support for both the physical clickers and mobile device options is provided on campus for both instructors and students.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Senate Technology Committee by a vote of 7 for to 0 against on February 26, 2016

Recommends that students will be allowed to use either a mobile device or a physical device of a single polling system as recommended by the senate technology committee in classrooms where instructors choose to poll students.

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Implementation Date: Fall 2016

Signed: Angela Stombaugh
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office