Survey Results
& Analysis

for

TRU Teaching Practices Colloquium

February 15, 2010

Executive Summary

This report contains a detailed statistical analysis of the results to the survey titled *TRU Teaching Practices Colloquium February 15, 2010*. The results analysis includes answers from all respondents who took the survey in the 7 day period from Tuesday, February 16, 2010 to Monday, February 22, 2010. 111 completed responses were received to the survey during this time.

83% of respondents attended for the full day, 12% only the morning and 5% only the afternoon.

In terms of what respondents enjoyed about the conference, in order of most selected: Keynote (83), Sessions (79), Socializing (50), Closing(44), and lunch (29). Two respondents also added Poster Session which was not included on the survey, and one add "the chance to present".

73% of respondents stated there was a session that they did not get to see, but wanted to.

74% of respondents got information from email source, while the next most effective was word of mouth. Then a bunch others reported "other" on this survey- they were on the committee…cheeky monkeys.

Finally respondents provided lots of feedback in terms of comments. These are distilled below. There were MANY comments congratulating the committee and positive feedback, but these have be left to the full version. The comments below are therefore related to direct ideas on next year. I have split the comments into 3 groups: Format/Time, Theme/Content, Lunch/Food,.

Please share any suggestions you have for the TPC Organizing Committee to consider for next time.
Time/Format

1. Why have concurrent sessions?! Instead, the sessions can run consequently, over the entire Reading Week. This way one can attend all of the sessions that one is interested in. If the above can't be done, then why not ask all presenters to make the key points of their sessions, as well as all handouts (if any) available on the netNeed more time to move from each session
2. longer sessions- 50 minutes with a 10 minute break-
3. more sessions and definitely longer sessions even by 10 minutes
4. longer time frame. ..one long and two short sessions
5. an un-conference (facilitated, participant-driven session focussed around a theme or purpose). Could do on student engagement, retention, technology in the class, teaching generation y, etc.
6. Please schedule sessions more carefully to ensure that sessions that fit well together are not scheduled at the same time.
7. Is there some way students could be involved in organizing and participating?
8. The committee members do such a great job. Perhaps taking a bow at the end of the day would be good
9. I think it would be better to lengthen the conference by 1 hour to cut down on the number of concurrent sessions (6 is too many).
10. delete the program folder,
11. more time between sessions for movement between rooms
12. allow more time for presenters to set up
13. Have the information within the program regarding the sessions available to participant (on-line)
14. Continue the variety of choices in workshops
15. TPC in the fall and the winter OR a TPC with longer sessions
16. I felt the sessions were too rushed - more time please!
17. I think it would have been valuable to have Administration attend Eileen's presentation on SoTL
18. Pre-regsitration for sessions?
19. I think that more time is needed for the sessions, especially those that have multiple presenters, and
20. Some of the sessions didn't have enough time,
21. started on the hour or half hour and ran 60 minutes.
22. end at 0430 at the lastest with maybe a wine and cheese sponsored by Administration until 5:30?
23. perhaps a repeat of the sessions
24. I love show casing what our faculty are doing in their own respective classes, but it might be nice to get other faculty from other institutions to look at what they are doing as well. Mix things up a bit.
25. Both the sessions I attended ran out of time. I remember this being a problem in previous colloquims. Is it possible to make each session a full hour? I think this might help. 45 minutes is a very short time span to get into any depth with the topic.
26. more of the same - lots of variety - on site and distance teaching sessions
27. shorter presentations and less concurrent ones.
28. A little more time in between sessions
29. I know it's ironic, but I felt that some of the presentors spent too much time on activities when we had so little time to address real, concrete suggestions and resources
30. Allow for more time to set up in computer labs
31. I really feel that the sessions just aren't long enough.
32. I think each session was quite short.
33. Handling Grants while being a great teacher
34. share presentations and materials on the website?
35. Ensure that presenters keep the volume of their material such that it fits withing the alloted time.
36. Presentation contents/handouts on the
37. 5 concurrent sessions made it very difficult to choose!!!
38. start time of 8:45 for keynote was better,
39. wish there was a way to get people to leave the ends of rows open –
40. do the breaks need to be as long? –
41. signs to computer lab room if used
42. I think TPC should consider offering 1.5 hour extended workshops that occur alongside the concurrent sessions.
43. Guidance for presentators on how to present and time management.

Themes

- I always enjoy sessions that include innovative ways of engaging students.
- As I am not an instructor, but rather work in Student Support Services in an area that often works closely with teaching faculty, I would appreciate some sessions that are geared towards how teaching faculty and student service providers can work together to improve student engagement and retention. A good example of that was the session with Sharon Munk, Ginny Ratsoy et al.
- Could we look at classroom strategies to improve student involvement
- Ideas that will help faculty (especially bipartites) deal with increasing class sizes and marking loads. How can we stay pedagogically sound and still maintain our sanity and health, in other words, how to find the elusive work-life balance.
- In one session the keynote speaker remarked that teachers often comment on the difficulty of getting students to read, and in some ways respond to, the feedback they do receive. The idea seemed to resonate with faculty in the marking session.
- I'm somewhat disappointed in that I would like to have seen at least some talks (perhaps even the keynote) that a ctually present some research on teaching methods and such: i.e. a study that actually tests whether a certain teaching strategy or method actually increases the learning or knowledge-retention of the students. Perhaps there was something along that lines in the sessions, but unfortunately, I did not see it. The keynote speaker pretty much just reiterated other published material.
- The impact of teaching practices on students' learning outcome should be given due consideration in the future.

Food etc

- More Technology base teaching lectures
- Bigger lunch room with tables. I's very difficult to eat sandwiches with one hand. Need to put down coffee cup or lunch plate somewhere.
- Have a coat hanging room Do not use bottled water
- Larger cups at coffee break, that's about it :) Enjoyed the hands on of the computer sessions.
- coffee at morning registration please
- Actually I am getting a little tired of Fratellis! Who knew... I warm meal would be nice.
- Lunch could be 10 minutes shorter and sessions 5 minutes longer...?
- Please arrange places to sit at lunch time. It's very awkward holding a plate and a cup, plus manage folders, coats etc while trying to socialize with colleagues. This is a valuable time for connecting with people outside one's own field (one of the highlights of the day!)and I've always found that this format makes things uncomfortable and awkward.
- Good colloquium. Thank you. My only constructive feedback is about the way the lunchroom was set up - it was hard to get food due to no room for people who were eating to get away from the food tables.

Any additional comments?

These comments have been distilled from the full group to the ones that actually put forward new ideas/concerns.

- I find the website hard to navigate
- Maybe an Introduction of the guest speaker in the beginning of the class.
- While I enjoyed the keynote's talks… I would have preferred if the session at the end of the day was more "active". Perhaps less 'content' in the talk on content.
- Is a plenary session necessary? …. May be it is time to try a workshop format in the afternoon where more time can be spent exploring a topic of interest. You could have concurrent session along side workshop sessions so that there is something for everyone.
- … some of them could have benefitted with more time.
- … Here at TRU … are now struggling with questions such as "How does one effectively measure the scholarship of teaching?" … I think it might be useful in the future to invite keynote speakers who are themselves actively involved in learning-related research and who can address topics that help move us substantially forward.
- I notice the final session in Clock Tower missing folks... perhaps it's the timeslot??
- It would be nice to have different speakers for the two keynote addresses
- … but was expecting something 'different' when I heard the title of the conference 'signature pedagogies' I thought there would be more philosophical discussion from people within each discipline…
- …but start at 8:30 is a drag!!! …possible to start at 9….and …ve a 45 minute Key note and still have time to get coffee and to the first sessions by 10:20…it's lots of time.