

Student Technology Fee Request for Funding

Project Title: Enhancing Classroom Interactions and Student Learning with Clickers (Audience Response System)

Brief Project Overview

This project would purchase additional clickers for students to use in classrooms. Clickers, also called an Audience Response System, allow students to use credit card-sized radio frequency keypads to participate in presentations or lectures by submitting responses to interactive questions. Clickers have been extremely well received by students in the limited number of courses they've been used. In Dr. Ron Krabill's Institutions & Social Change course taught during Winter 07, 92% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed using clickers, and 91% recommended or strongly recommended that clickers be used in other courses. But the clickers have been used only in a limited amount of courses and in a limited way because there are only two sets of 45 clickers that can be checked out from the Campus Media Center. Further, the clickers can only be checked out for 4 hours, making it difficult to use by students in a classroom in a consistent manner. This proposal would purchase 500 additional clickers and 17 radio frequency receivers so that they can be used in more classrooms, by more students and on a more consistent basis, thus enhancing the learning experience for students across the entire campus.

Full description of the project that includes the following sections:

A. The goal of the program or project

The UWB Mission Statement states that the student-faculty relationship is paramount. Yet prioritizing this relationship in the midst of the complicated dynamics of classroom interaction often proves more challenging than the simplicity of that statement implies. The goal of this proposal is to make clickers more widely available to further facilitate classroom interactions that both respect and address the widely divergent views held by our students. The ultimate goal is to enhance student learning by helping students feel more engaged and feel like an active participant in their learning.

As an example of how clickers can enhance student interaction, participating in a classroom discussion can often be difficult for students, even in smaller class sizes. This is particularly true of controversial subjects, when individual students may perceive (accurately or otherwise) that their own position stands in opposition to either or both that of the instructor or most of the rest of the class. Other factors that hinder participation include personality types, learning styles, and issues such as English as a second language. The result is that class discussions are often dominated by a relatively small number of students, whose opinions and positions are then taken to represent those of the class as a whole. The clickers allow all students to provide anonymous, instant feedback to an instructor's questions, thus creating a sort of flash public opinion polling mechanism and provide a more complete context for classroom discussions and interactions, preventing the assumption that the positions of more vocal students are the dominant or only opinion represented in the classroom. Indeed, in Dr. Krabill's course, student groups used the clickers frequently in their own presentations, and a class survey showed that 83% recommended or strongly recommended that future student groups use the clickers in their presentations.

B. A description of the program and how it will benefit the student body

The proposal calls for purchasing 500 clickers as well as 17 receivers. Having these additional clickers will make it logistically easier for faculty to use the clickers in their classrooms. Currently, while many faculty members have expressed interest in using clickers, the number of clickers available and the limited check-out time for which they're available have proven to be a disincentive for use. Having 500 clickers will allow for a number of different checkout methods such as having students check out individual clickers for an entire quarter or having more clicker kits available for checkout etc. Faculty and student groups will have more opportunity to use the clickers for longer periods of time. Increased use of the clickers will lead to increased classroom interactions helping students learn better and helping them feel more engaged. The surveys we have done have clearly shown that students want to use the clickers because they help them understand the material better, participate more and enjoy the class more.

C. Specific information about the equipment and/or services being requested

We currently use the Turning Technologies' audience response system/clickers, called TurningPoint, since it is one of the leaders in providing these systems to educational institutions. Specifications:

1. Fully integrated into the MS Office Suite, including PowerPoint, Excel, Word and Outlook. In addition, it is integrated into PowerPoint than the other systems, so that an instructor can author, deliver, assess and report in PowerPoint.
2. Coordinates results of various questions on different PowerPoint slides so that results can be displayed side by side or correlated.
3. Can create questions in Word which then can automatically be turned into PowerPoint slides.
4. Has report wizards which simplifies generating a variety of reports in Excel or Word.
5. A wide range of output graphs which are instantaneously created in PowerPoint for display online. Graphs include offset, distributed, horizontal 3D and vertical bar.
6. A wide range of question templates including yes/no, scramble, analogy, team participation, timed responses and a variety of Likert scale options.
7. The ability to display results by group.
8. Small and light response pads for greater portability. TurningPoint's keypads measure 3.5 x 2.5 x ¼ inches and weigh 1.2 ounces.

D. How the project will be implemented and by whom

The project will be implemented by the campus Information Systems Department and check out procedures will be handled by the campus Campus Media Center.

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Information Systems / 358540

Name of Department (if applicable), and Campus Mailbox Number

Director of Information Systems

Representative or party responsible for the program

425-352-5209 / mstocke@uwb.edu

Phone number and e-mail for contact

\$25,958.00

Total amount requested

Campus Media Center

Co-sponsors if any

ITEM (complete description of item, type of product, quantity) *	Unit Cost	Full Cost
Radio Frequency Response Card Keypad * 500	\$44.00	\$22,000.00
Additional Response Card Radio Frequency Receivers * 17	\$99.00	\$1,683.00
TAX		\$1,915.00
TOTAL		\$25,598.00

* This page is a crucial portion of your funding request. Items have to be described in detail, the number of people who this event will serve, quantity and cost of each item, etc. Pricing must be supported by additional documentation from the organization providing the items. Please be specific when listing costs, otherwise your request might not be granted.