

MILEX Meeting – April 24, 2009
Salisbury University
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Present: Thomas Arendall-Salveti (UB); Sharon Casey (CCBC-Dundalk) ; Shak Dhanesar (CCBC- Dundalk); Stephen Ford (Salisbury); Sean Henry (Frostburg); Sara Nixon (TU); Virginia Polley (Stevenson U); Lisa Sweeney (TU)

Business:

- 2010 conference
 - Decided on the topic of Embedding IL
 - SN will solicit conference committee members through an Email
- Sean Henry presented the Treasurer's Report
 - In response to the increasingly unsatisfactory arrangement for accessing and managing MILEX funds, Sean would like a committee to work with him on pursuing non-profit status as an alternative for MILEX
- Sean highlighted the requirements for becoming a non-profit and the advantages such as payment through PayPal and the ability to use Survey Monkey to collect information
- Bring calendars to next meeting so we can plan for next year

Presentation: Stephen Ford - "Clickers"

- TurningPoint (<http://www.turningtechnologies.com/>) initially worked well with PowerPoint – now works also with the MS suite
- Uses a handheld response card and USB audience response receiver
- Currently, about 20 + classes use this on Salisbury's campus
- Students buy a clicker at the bookstore for \$40 and turn it in at the end of their college career for a \$20 refund
 - Students register their clicker, which has a unique ID number, which is attached to their student account (e.g. PeopleSoft) and serves as an anti-theft mechanism
- Works through a channel, which is set up on campus
- Special software , which works with PowerPoint and allows creation of an interactive session that can be run it in classroom –
 - Open up PowerPoint and click on the TurningPoint icon to activate special authoring features
 - Helps to be familiar with PowerPoint – can use animations and timing features although this may affect response times
- Features:
 - Can import a class roster, which allows it to be used for grading and attendance

- Increases the possibilities for active learning in an IL setting
- Can modify instruction “on the fly” by introducing “hidden” slides in case responses show poor understanding
- Can insert pictures in place of words for visual learners
- Correct answer indicator
- Creates a live poll that can be portrayed visually as a bar graphs or pie charts
- Reports & saving session
 - Generates statistics that can be used for assessment, which are activated by the SAVE SESSION button
 - Saves it as a .tpz file, so must be opened in TurningPoint
 - Opens tools/reports/highlight session - decide type of results you'd like to get
 - Generated reports can be brought up in Excel
- Purchase considerations:
 - Some systems allow you to use a cell phone
 - Cost (TurningPoint subscription price is based on FTEs)
 - Ease of use
- Recommendations for using a clickers system:
 - Plan early
 - Learning, creating, testing
 - Pre-test whether bar charts or pie graphs will work best for image representation of question results
 - Be patient with the technology
 - Remember to create and present through TurningPoint
 - Remember to Save Session
 - Spend enough time to tell your students how it works – remember that some students tend to play with software and this can create problems
 - 2 year battery life for clickers
 - Make sure to leave plenty of time to discuss response to questions
 - Make sure to use clickers as a learning tool, not just for recording attendance
- Benefits
 - Immediate assessment of student learning – can be used to supplement evaluations done with Survey Monkey
 - Can use it for a pretest and posttest
 - Can capture statistics for departmental needs
 - Help students focus on learning and generates class discussion
 - Relatively low cost to buy the clicker – clickers are registered in PeopleSoft

- Seamless integration with PowerPoint and Blackboard

NEXT MEETING:

Friday, June 26th, 10 – noon, Loyola Graduate Campus, Columbia, MD

Directions: <http://www.loyola.edu/facilitiesmanagement/columbia/directions.html>

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Nixon, MILEX Secretary

7 May 2009