

2012 UNIVERSITY ANNUAL LEARNING & TEACHING CONFERENCE

2012 & Beyond

Theme: Innovations

11:10 – 11:50

Using technology to give immediate feedback and promote interactivity & participation in lectures

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Abstract:

Module evaluation forms completed by students in the Business School consistently show a desire for more interactivity in lectures. In response to this 'student voice', students on the core Academic and Professional Skills module have used the TurningPoint audience response system coupled with peer instruction methods to encourage participation and critical thinking techniques in lectures on Presentation Skills and Quantitative Methods in semester 1. The system also provided students with immediate formative feedback allowing them to compare their choices with 'correct' answers.

The conference audience will get a chance to participate directly in examples of this type of learning, which is said to promote deeper assimilation of key concepts (Crouch and Mazur, 2001) as well as making students feel more involved (Barnett, 2006).

Data from the student polls will be presented to show the conference audience whether using the technique increased understanding or increased student satisfaction.

Next semester, APS students will be encouraged to use a Twitterstream as a backchannel during a lecture to discuss issues raised and to offer questions to the presenter (and each other) during the lecture. This will give them a valuable chance to participate at the same time as gaining a key skill for the digital age (students are amongst the least active Twitter users, despite its increasing importance in business and communication). Again, the conference audience will be encouraged to take part in the same way during the presentation, looking at the pros and cons of such a system. If you wish to be part of this, please ensure you have registered for a twitter account at <http://twitter.com> before the conference.

Both these systems could be part of a range of technologies that help academics 'deliver an exceptional student experience' as promoted in the university's Strategic Plan.