

2013-11-18 Focus Group Summary

In the Classroom

1. Hardware must be reliable
2. A consistent user interface in all classrooms would be desirable
3. Sometimes faculty who use Macs have trouble with PCs in classes
4. Hard to know what's available. E.g. we have clickers, but faculty don't always know that
5. Faculty have various expertise and experience, but don't always share that expertise
6. Unclear what aspects of MOOCs we should pay attention to
7. Skype or other video conferencing would be helpful

General Teaching

1. Sakai is widely used. This includes tools like Forums. (Sometimes posts do not show up.)
2. Simulations are used
3. IT staff support needed
4. AV equipment used.
5. Video47 widely used
6. Sakai not perfect -- known problems with text formatting cut-and-paste
7. Tools seem independent -- sakai, portal, outlook -- and lack good interactions

Advising and Registration

1. Portal is widely used, but does not have all info about a student relevant for advising. (Missing pending plans, study abroad, ...)
2. Need unofficial transcript for advising. Degree audit, including major, would be helpful.
3. Major declaration form not on portal
4. Faculty advise students from 5Cs, so need info about other colleges
5. Paper forms are a burden
6. Course Builder @Pomona is popular, but missing some Pitzer-relevant info
7. The registration system should enforce pre-reqs

Training

1. More training on Sakai is needed. But it is offered. Unclear if people know about the training.
2. Hard to know, in general, what is available, either training or features

Students

1. Students often do not have MS word; they like Macs.
2. Students often use google docs, but faculty do not have Pitzer accounts.
3. When faculty do have gdocs, they get extra email addresses, which is a burden