

Rethinking the Liberal Arts Experience in the Digital Age

Summary of Evaluations

(23 evaluations out of 29 attendees)

The length of the symposium was appropriate:

- 78% Agree strongly
- 17% Agree somewhat
- 5% Disagree somewhat

The symposium's format worked well:

- 64% Agree strongly
- 32% Agree somewhat
- 4% Disagree somewhat

The size of the group was satisfactory for discussion:

- 96% Agree strongly
- 4% Agree somewhat

The facilitator did a good job of stimulating discussion:

- 81% Agree strongly
- 19% Agree somewhat

The symposium stimulated me to think more about the evolving information environment:

- 68% Agree strongly
- 32% Agree somewhat

The symposium stimulated me to examine ways to enhance teaching and learning through the use of technology:

- 68% Agree strongly
- 32% Agree somewhat

What were your main reasons for participating in the symposium?

- Asked to; felt should participate in dialog
- Interest in the topic
- Make sure my thoughts are part of the discussion
- For inspiration; to start thinking
- To see how the classroom might change
- Develop ideas for including technology in courses
- Interest in furthering digital facilities at Millsaps; curiosity about using technology for teaching
- To give thought to how technology can improve teaching

- Interested in initiating the IF idea
- Subject is important
- Looking for ideas
- To keep abreast and help increase the technology/liberal arts interface
- To understand better the implementation of technology in my discipline
- To get a broad-view of IT and to exchange ideas
- To learn about the experiences and opinions of others
- Interested in enhancing programs with technology

What are your information and technology needs?

- More information/dialog about use of technology in the classroom
- More and better equipment, especially in the classrooms
- An infrastructure that works; strong support network
- More computer labs and “smart” rooms
- More hands-on experience
- Time to integrate technology into courses
- Education on appropriate software and help on how to use
- A scanner for my office; a scantron that would grade tests to measure critical thinking
- Help with Web site development
- GIS; Archview

What are the impediments to meeting these needs?

- Time
- Money
- Lack of coherent campus-wide effort
- Lack of facilities, equipment, and software
- Lack of ideas and planning
- Lack of structures of support
- Lack of adequate database of pedagogical data to measure outcomes

Do you think continued discussion of this issue is important?

22 Yes

0 No

What other approaches might be taken to address this issue?

- Write a vision; get a grant; pull programs and efforts together
- Need a director of academic computing
- Plan, plan, plan
- Not silence and meditation

- Groups assigned to focus on specific aspects
- More opportunities to hear about what colleagues are doing
- Consider how we might use existing technology to the fullest
- Continue discussions and bring in dynamic speakers
- Make a plausible plan and get on with it
- Sharing of technology by those using it
- Institutional focus
- Grant funding
- Have someone to come in and discuss what is possible and what is being done now
- Wireless technology
- Campus-wide continuing conversation and not just through a committee
- Further discussion among symposium participants and people on the division and College level
- More discussion/conversation and a plan
- ACS IF grant to fund a workshop on GIS

What could the College do that would be of most assistance to you in the information technology area?

- Continued support
- Increased dialog
- Keep the conversation active
- Increase funding
- Reduce clerical work by having a better infrastructure
- Create a “Hi-media” support center with a director and staff, independent of Computer Services
- Upgrade and expand resources for classroom use
- Establish an environment that makes technology a more integral part of the college-wide curriculum
- Continue to support existing programs and development of new ideas
- Follow through on the discussion
- Implement suggestions
- Set up a center to educate staff and students in programs
- Assess specific departmental equipment/educational needs and desires
- Provide notebook PCs to faculty
- Projectors in more classrooms
- Provide equipment, software, support in some structured, organized non ad-hoc way
- Money & time

- Hire and maintain a staff exclusively dedicated to teach and support faculty use and integration of software packages
- Make equipment and technical support available
- A technology equivalent of the Writing Center with a “cheerleader,” staff and student assistants

Additional Comments:

- “Time well spent! Thank you!”
- “Great job.”
- “Important to keep people informed of how the process toward implementation progresses.”
- “I think the first day could have been cut down to a questionnaire of some type...”
- “I came to the conference with certain expectations that were not met. However, to my surprise I learned a most valuable set of lessons regarding faculty technology proficiency level. As a result this conference was much more valuable than my original expectations.”
- “Ask the faculty what ‘little’ and readily attainable things could we do right now and that we are willing to do; could we do.”
- “Thank you. I enjoyed it very much.”
- “The focus here was very general. I would like to see a follow-up to consider some of the more specific challenges that were raised.”