Faculty and Staff and Today's Technology

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Executive Summary

Our group is surveying the faculty and staff on campus in order to analyze how they utilize technology in both their personal and professional lives. Our goal is to determine how the faculty and staff are affected by today's technology. We also intend to determine how much they utilize the newest technology on campus to its full potential. We have composed three research questions that we addressed in this project:

(1) In what ways are faculty and staff using technology, personally and professionally?
(2) Are faculty and staff using Blackboard to its full potential?
(3) Is the newly implemented technology effective in the preparation and execution of classes, thus making it a worthwhile area to invest Truman's money?

With the ever changing nature of today's technology it is of upmost importance to be able to determine what is effective and what is excessive. With the budget crisis on campus, this adds additional need for the serious analysis of what technology the university should be putting its valuable money into. The numerous contributions given by alumni, parents, and various companies, greatly aided in the new smart classrooms located across campus. These entities would not have donated their money to this cause if they hadn't recognized the usefulness and demand that this technology satisfied in the learning environment.

Examining what aspects of technology the faculty and staff utilize in preparation and delivery in their classes is a large part of this study. In our survey, we ask how dependent they are on various forms of technology in gathering material for lectures and discussions in class. We also address details concerning what search engines they use and how effective they find available information to be. Looking specifically at Blackboard, we questioned whether the faculty and staff even utilize it, and if they do what applications they use and how often. Probably the most commonly used form of technology on campus is email. We are looking into how aspects such as frequency of use and effectiveness of using the email accounts. These are just a few of the ideas that we are studying in the survey, however, they are the most prevalent areas of concentration in the study.

After closing the survey, we entered the results into SPSS. From there we were able to create graphs and run tests to allow us to draw conclusions from the results. We correlated information concerning different topics using Spearman Rho as well as the Pearson Test. We also ran the Kruskal-Wallis Test.