City College E-Learning Workshop Notes
Covid-19 Learning and Best Practices

Participants

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What Worked

- Collaborating with other instructors with online experience worked well. The experienced individual was made an administrator in the D2L class shell which was effective for help. Send an email to Nic Drzycimski to add someone as a TA or Administrator in a class.
- 2nd year students can be added as supplemental instructors in a 1st year class as a kind of tutor in some cases. The students may be able to get paid for their work.
- Increased use of discussions when we went online. Giving each student a unique question to answer in discussion worked well. Complete a spreadsheet is an example. Promoted reading the material. Observed improvements in quality of written work.
- A drawing tablet was effective for demonstrating graphical concepts in WebEx. They allow drawing to the screen like a virtual whiteboard using drawing tools like 3D Paint. Wacom Intuos tablets work well and are available for $80-200. Some people may have tablets already that will work. A Microsoft Surface works well if you have a pen and configure it to only respond to the pen tip so you can rest your hand on the surface while drawing.
- TechSmith relay is an alternative to WebEx for asynchronous delivery. Allows a voice over a PowerPoint discussion. Allows a floating head popup too. Ask Dawn to install TechSmith software on you work computer.
- A headset helps with making TechSmith videos. It also helps with WebEx meetings and prevents feedback. A headset might also improve auto caption quality. Suggest a USB headset for easier compatibility with most PCs.
- Some hands-on labs were replaced by videos made by subject matter experts. Had students find a video and comment on the methods demonstrated. High quality learning from finding issues with techniques in even questionable demonstrations.

What Didn't Work As Well

- TechSmith auto captioning is limited. WebEx will offer captioning this fall and it looks to be pretty good. Microsoft Stream offers good auto captioning in 15-minute blocks but it is only asynchronous.
- No editing capability in TechSmith. Only option is to start over.
- Some hands-on labs are not easily replaced online.

- Clinicals and internships were challenged when our partners were not able to accommodate student learners. May have to consider internship substitutions in cases where hosting sites can't accommodate all students.
- Some students disappeared when we went online. Sometimes even the best performing students didn't succeed online. Some reasons were being moved out of the dorms or discipline to complete work at home.