

**The University of Memphis  
Personal Response System Research  
January 2006**

**Current Status of Technology on Campus:**

We currently do not have written policies in place regarding the use of Personal Response System technology on the U of M campus. Instructors are free to purchase a product from a number of different vendors. However, both students and instructors have voiced concerns regarding the use of different systems in classrooms across campus. The use of various systems could possibly force students to purchase multiple response units for different courses.

**Personal Response System Usage on Campus:**

- Information obtained from instructors:

Instructor	Department	Status	Approximate Number of Students Using PRS
Dr. Gootzeit	Economics	Currently uses	200 students
Dr. Bridson	Chemistry	Used 1 semester	90 students
Dr. Curry	Engineering	Currently uses	125 students
Dr. Hochstein	Engineering	Currently uses	60 students
Dr. Lindner	Chemistry	Currently uses	25 students
Dr. Fung	Economics	Currently uses	85 students
Dr. Mishra	Physics	Currently uses	60 students
Dr. Burkey	Chemistry	Currently uses	40 students
		Total # students	685 students

- Information obtained from the U of M bookstore:
  - ✓ Currently sells two types of units: Educue Student Transmitter (Vendor – GTCO) and Turning Point (Vendor – Thomson)
  - ✓ Educue: Student Cost \$30.70; Sold 157 units (Actual enrollment for all classes involved was 1143)
  - ✓ Thomson: Student Cost \$53.35 (when sold separately); Sold 225 units
  - ✓ Thomson: As part of a Physics textbook package student cost was \$175.40; Sold 24 packages (Actual enrollment was 51)

**Classroom Uses:**

- Check attendance
- Get immediate feedback on material presented in lecture
- Administer quizzes
- Test review
- Check homework results
- Administer questions during lecture with points counting towards class participation grade

### **Benefits of using PRS in the classroom:**

- Students remain more focused
- Instructors and students receive immediate feedback
- Saves time
- Enhances level of student participation in class

### **Information from Other Schools:**

- **University of Minnesota**
  - ✓ “The campus cannot support different departmental student response systems from the perspective of multiple classroom infrastructure installations, from the standpoint of faculty usability, or from the standpoint of students having to use multiple remotes/clickers for different rooms.”
  - ✓ “Before selecting a single SRS system for installation and use on a broad scale, the University must first address compatibility issues among the multiple vendors and units and the impact and issues involved in standardization of systems on campus.”
- **University of Texas at Austin**
  - ✓ Conducted pilot study during Fall 2005 semester
  - ✓ Tested three radio frequency systems from the following vendors: CPS, Qwizdom and Turning Point
  - ✓ “Colleges and departments at UT are conducting a pilot study and hope to replace our existing IR system with a single RF product that can be used across campus.”

### **Conclusions & Recommendations:**

This is a new-enough technology that it is difficult to make a definitive recommendation for the campus. This is also complicated by the fact that almost all of the PRS usage on campus is driven by book publishers and faculty control textbook decision-making.

### **Potential PRS Strategy Options for the University of Memphis:**

1. Take a “wait and see approach” and continue to observe and monitor PRS usage on campus.
2. Survey all faculty/departments to find out the exact number of instructors who are using the technology and determine who is interested in implementing the technology into their courses in the future. The survey results could be used to determine the university’s future plan of action.
3. Conduct a pilot study in order to identify one campus wide PRS standard to be utilized at the University of Memphis.
4. Select a single technology/vendor and adopt as a centrally-support option via ITD.