

Appendix C

Qualitative Interview Questions

Questions for Student Focus Groups

1. Background

- 1.1 Student information: age, gender, senior/freshman, full/part-time, on/off campus, discipline, ethnicity
- 1.2 How many computers do you own? What kinds? How long have you owned them?
- 1.3 What other technologies do you own? Do you own a smartphone?

2. Skill and use

- 2.1 How skilled are you at using computer technology to do work required for your classes?
- 2.2 Much is being said and written about the current generation of students being good at using technology and being tech savvy. Do you think this statement is true of yourself? Of your friends?
- 2.3 What kinds of technology skills do you have? (Last year's students reported being good at communications and Web surfing but less skilled at technologies like creating Web pages, graphics, video.)
- 2.4 What kinds of technology skills are you weak in?
- 2.5 What kinds of technology skills do you think students in general are weak in?
- 2.6 How good do you think students are at dealing with changes in technology (e.g., when you get a new course management system, such as WebCT or Learn@UW, a new set of programs, or when technologies you use are not available)?
- 2.7 Do you use computers and the Internet for entertainment? If so, what kinds of activities do you engage in for entertainment?
- 2.8 What impact do you think a student's major has on his or her use and skills with technology?
- 2.9 Tell me about your use of social networking (Facebook, etc.), IM, blogs, and wikis?

3. Your use of technology in courses

- 3.1 Do you think that the skills you may acquire in using the Internet for entertainment transfer to your school work? If so, what are the components of those skills? If not, why not?
- 3.2 How have instructors used technology in the courses you have taken thus far? Have you used wikis, blogs, podcasts, etc.?
- 3.3 What are the major advantages that you see in the use of technology in your courses?
- 3.4 What is the major disadvantage that you see in the use of technology in your courses?
- 3.5 Do you think that the use of technology in your courses has helped you in your learning?
 - 3.5.1 If so, how?
 - 3.5.2 If not, why not?
- 3.6 Do you think that in general your instructors are skilled in the use of technology in teaching?
- 3.7 What are the major obstacles that you see to more effective use of computers and information technology in your courses?
- 3.8 In last year's study, students indicated that technology in their classes was about convenience, communication, and control of the learning experience. While improved learning was also mentioned, it seemed to play a lesser role. Can you please comment on this?
- 3.9 If there was one thing your professors could do or not do with respect to technology in your course, what would it be?

4. Future

- 4.1 What advice would you give university administrators who are keen to encourage the effective use of technology in college courses? What sorts of things should they be doing?

5. Other Comments