

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, major discipline.
- 1.2 How many computers do you own? What kinds? How long have you owned them?
- 1.3 Do you own a smartphone or PDA that can access the Internet? Do you use it to access the Internet? What other electronic devices do you own?

2. Skill and use of IT

- 2.1 How skilled are you at using computer technology to do the work required for your classes?
- 2.2 Much is being said and written about the current generation of students using information technology extensively and being tech savvy. Do you think this statement is true of yourself? Of your friends?
- 2.3 What kinds of technology skills are you weak in? What are you strong in?
- 2.4 What kinds of technology skills do you think students in general are weak in?
- 2.5 Do you think you have the skills you need for entry into the workforce? Are there particular areas that you think you're most ready?
- 2.6 Do you think you are Internet savvy?
- 2.7 How are your skills in evaluating the reliability and credibility of online resources?
- 2.8 Do you have a good understanding of the ethical aspects of using online resources?
- 2.9 Do you use computers and the Internet for entertainment? If so, what kinds of activities do you engage in for entertainment?
- 2.10 What impact do you think a student's major has on his or her use and skills with technology?

3. Your use of technology in courses

- 3.1 How have instructors used information technology in the courses you have taken thus far?

- 3.2 How effective are your instructors with these information technologies?
- 3.3 What are the major advantages that you see in the use of information technology in your courses?
- 3.4 What is the major disadvantage that you see in the use of information technology in your courses?
- 3.5 Do you think that the use of information technology in your courses has helped you in your learning? If so, how? If not, why not?
- 3.6 What are the major obstacles you see to more effective use of computer and information technology in your courses?
- 3.7 One of the findings of last year's study was that students indicated that technology in their classes was about convenience. While improved learning was also mentioned, it seemed to play a lesser role. Can you please comment on this?
- 3.8 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. Social networking

- 5.1 Are you an active user of social networking sites (Facebook, MySpace, Bebo, etc.)? Why or why not?
- 5.2 How often do you use these websites? How much time do you spend?
- 5.3 Why do you use the websites? How do you use them?
- 5.4 How many friends on social networking sites do you have that you've never met in person?
- 5.5 These sites have been around for a few years. Do you think their popularity is increasing or decreasing? Why?
- 5.6 Do you participate (add content to) in wikis? How?
- 5.7 Do you participate (add content to) in blogs? How?
- 5.8 Have you used any of these social networking tools in your courses? How? How effective were they?
- 5.9 Are you worried about having your identity/profile available to everyone publicly? If so, why?

6. Other Comments?