



i teach | exchanging ideas
on teaching

Biennial symposium: January 12, 2012

WU Students and Technology: New and Continuing Trends

Michelle Repice and Beth Fisher
The Teaching Center



Session Overview

ECAR Study Objectives and WU Participation

Major Findings:

- Technology Ownership
- Student Perceptions of Technology
- Technology Skills of Students/Instructors
- Benefits of Instructional Technology

Discussion of findings and implications



EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR)

Study of Undergraduate Students and
Information Technology (2004-2011)

WU students
participating since 2010



2011 Student Participation

Washington University:

415 first-year and 415 senior students invited
125 students responded (15% response rate)

Nationally:

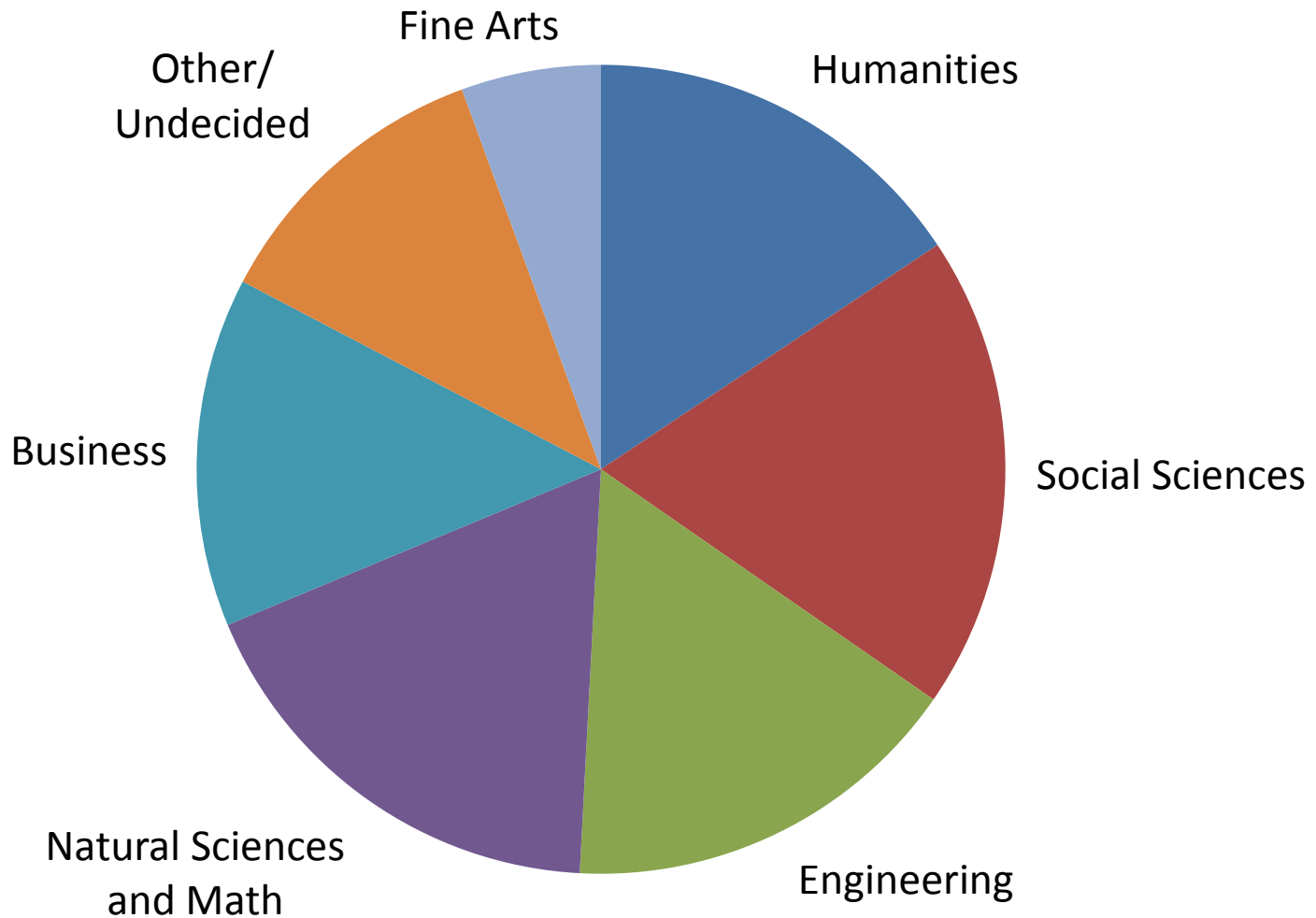
29,000+ participants from 145 Institutions



ECAR Study Participants

	Washington University	Other 4-year Institutions
Male	43.5%	38.9%
Female	56.4%	61%
Full-time student	99.1%	90.1%
Senior	44.8%	49.7%
Junior/ Sophomore	---	13.4%
First-year	55.2%	36.9%
Age 18-24	100%	83.6%

Majors of WU Participants



Preference for New, Mobile Technology



Ownership of Devices

- Laptops: 96 %
- Personal Handheld Device: 53.6%
- Tablets: 12%
- E-book readers: 4.8%



Students' Self-Perception: Timing of Technology Adoption

Early Adopters - 37%

Mainstream Adopters – 47.5%

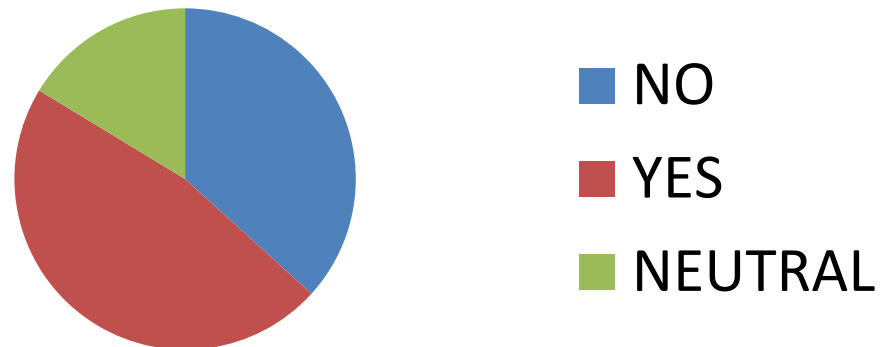
Late Adopters or “Laggards” – 15.5%

Regular, In-Class Use of Tech Devices

For Course Activities: 46%

For Non-Course Activities: 29%

Should instructors have the authority to ban device-use in class?





A Barrage of Messages

	% Students	Median Frequency of Use
Using Email	100	Daily
Text Messaging	99.2	Daily
Social Networking	98.4	Daily
Instant Messaging	77.5	Several times/week
Twitter	42.8	Several times/week
Skype	92.0	Weekly



Most Widely-Used Technology

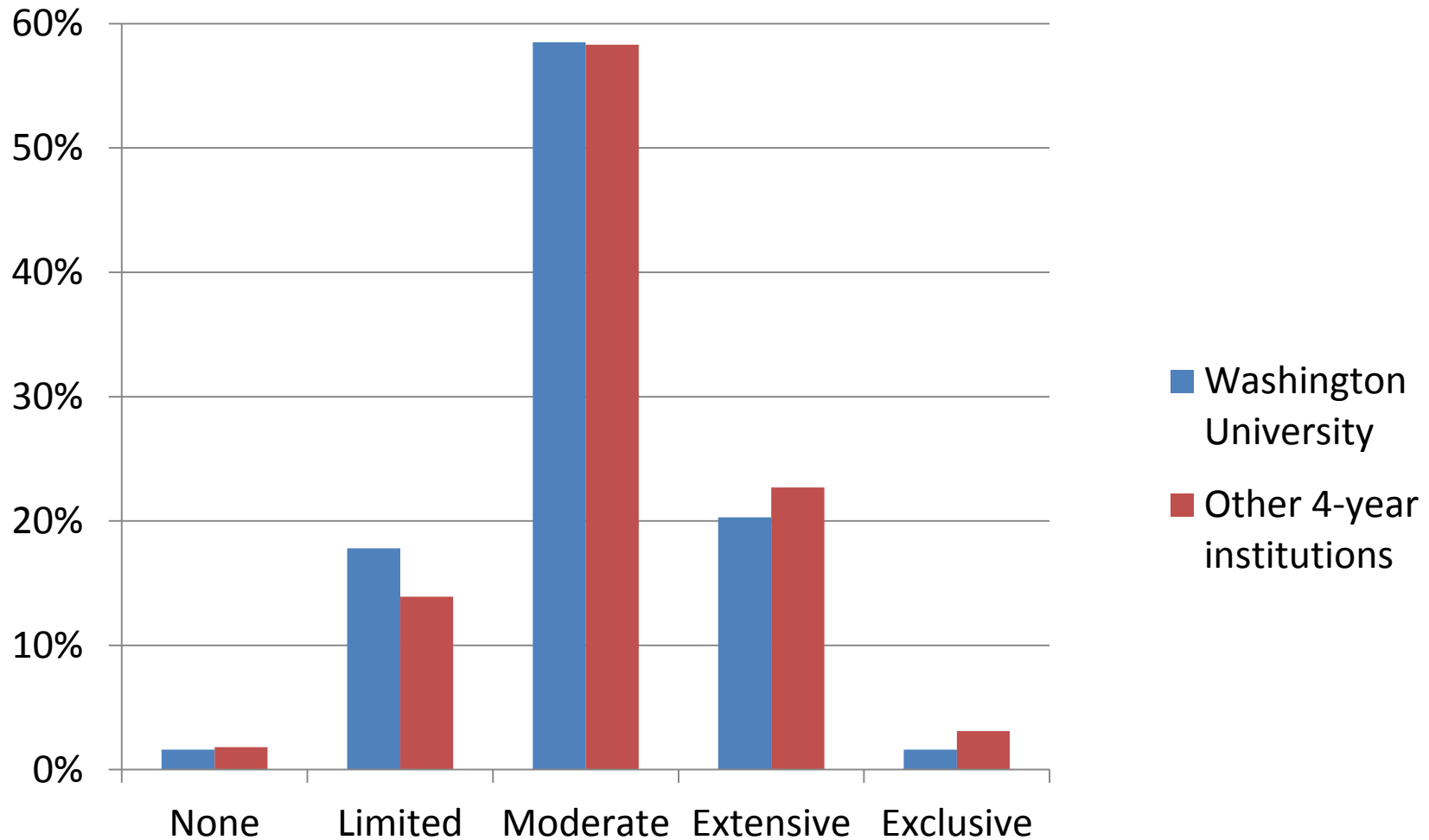
	% Students	Median Frequency of Use	Median Skill Level
Creating Spreadsheets/Charts	98.4	Weekly	Fairly Skilled
Creating Presentations	94.4	Monthly	Very Skilled
Creating Graphics	72.0	Monthly	Not Very Skilled
Using Library Web site	96.8	Monthly	Fairly Skilled

Use of Technology for Spring 2011 Courses



Wikis	44%	↑
Web-based citation tools	32%	↑
Podcasts, Videos of Lectures	24.8%	↑
Facebook, Linked-in, etc.	22.4%	
Clickers	20%	↑
Blogs	18.4%	↑

Preferred Amount of Technology in Courses



Instructor Use of Instructional Technology (IT)



Instructors use technology effectively 47.2%

Instructors provide training for IT used in class

20% No Training

31.2% Some Training

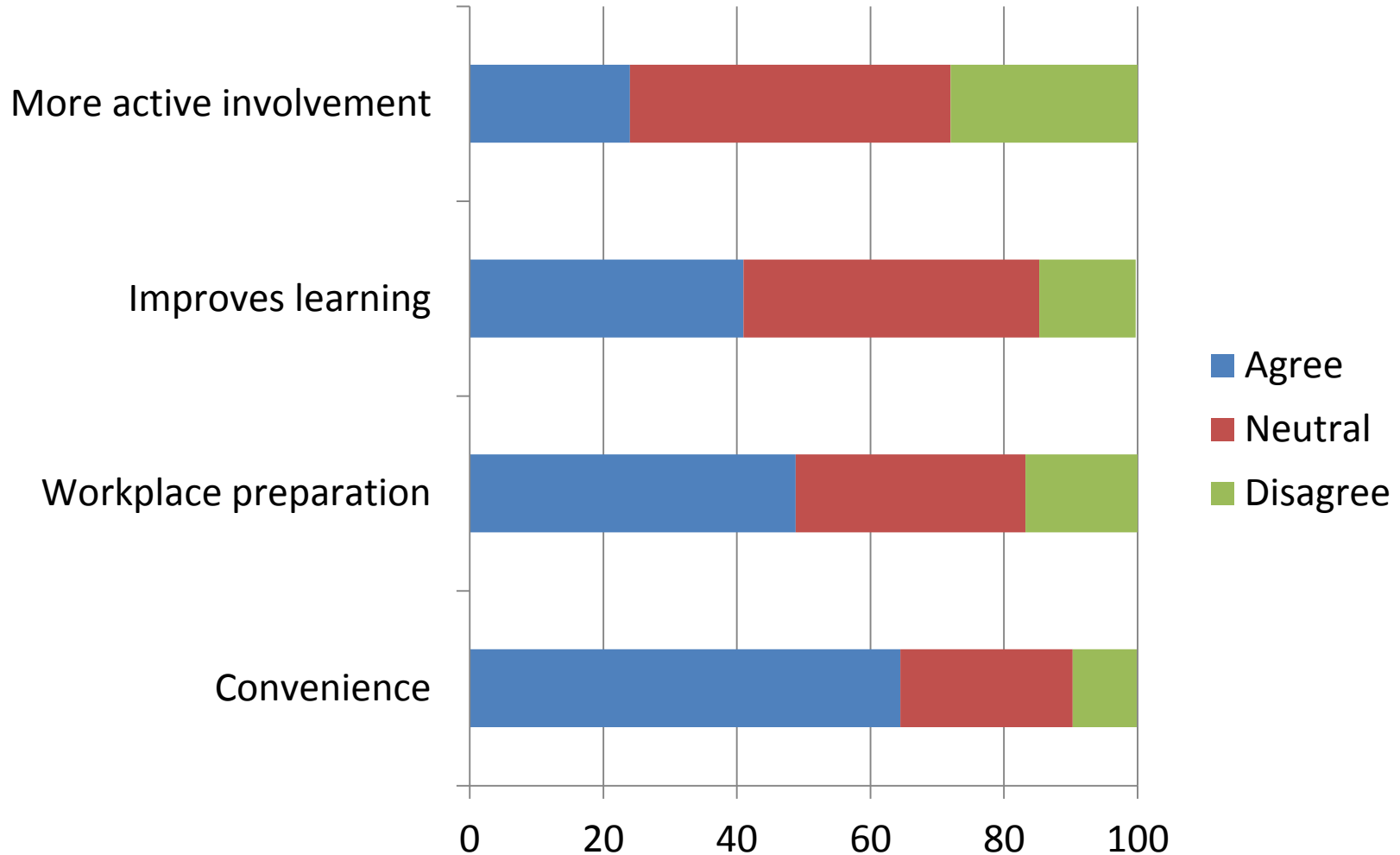
Instructor IT skills adequate 52%



What are the Benefits of Instructional Technology?

- Increased convenience with coursework
- More active engagement in course material
- Preparation for the workplace
- Improves learning

Students' Perceptions: Benefits of Instructional Technology





Strategies/Recommendations

- Design uses of technology carefully
 - Select tools that have potential to improve learning and engagement
 - Take an incremental approach
 - Integrate technology with other tools
 - Seek any necessary training
- Learn about your students' technology skills and preferences
 - Provide instruction when needed