Faculty and Staff Survey Results – Use of tablets and laptops

The College of Health Professions (CHP) Student Computing Task Force surveyed faculty and students in the college to assess expectations for and current use of laptops, tablets, and smartphones by students. A “tablet” was defined as a mobile computer larger than a Smartphone having the following characteristics: the use of a touch screen rather than an integrated keyboard as the primary input, web accessibility, and the capability to install and run software/applications. Examples included the iPad, Samsung Galaxy, and Kindle Fire.

A summary of survey results is below:

- **The most frequent uses of students’ laptops** (ie., more than 50% of survey respondents indicating “often” or “always”) were for accessing files, grades, assignments, and discussion postings in the Moodle learning management system; sending and receiving email; writing papers; creating presentations; sharing files and organizing school work; viewing Tegrity video/audio recordings of lecture; taking notes; accessing library resources; “googling” or looking up course concepts; taking online tests; and using Microsoft Excel.

- **Other uses** included conducting/participating in video-conferences; using reference management software; creating other types of video/recordings; using statistical analysis software; creating Tegrity video/audio recordings; and using test security software.

- **Sixteen percent of students have tried using a tablet for school.** 71% of student tablet users indicate their tablet has not been sufficient for completing all school-related work. Limitations relate to writing papers and typing, editing PowerPoint files, screen size, the inability to run specialized software, and printing from a tablet while on campus.

- **Seventy percent of students use a smartphone to facilitate schoolwork;** 34% of students “often” or “always”, 36% “sometimes”, 29% “never”. 99% of student smartphone users use their phones for email, 87% for texting, 78% for accessing Moodle, 32% for speaking, and 28% for viewing Tegrity recordings of lectures.