Assessing Student Engagement at the Classroom Level

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Presentation Outline

A. Background Handouts: CLASSE Highlights
B. CLASSE Users Survey: Preliminary Pilot Test Results
C. Participation in the 2009-10 Pilot Study
D. Discussion: Reactions & Impressions

A. Background Handouts: CLASSE Highlights

A. What is the CLASSE?

The Classroom Survey of Student Engagement (CLASSE) is a measure of the level of student engagement within a single designated course.

The CLASSE is composed of two instruments:

- **CLASSE Student** - asks students how frequently they engage in various educational practices within the course
- **CLASSE Faculty** - asks the faculty instructor how important the various educational practices are in facilitating student success within the course

The CLASSE enables one to compare what students are doing with what the instructor believes is important for being successful within the designated course.

Why was the CLASSE developed?

Institutional Engagement Results

Disaggregate to the College Level

Department Level Results

Can We Measure Student Engagement at the Classroom Level

"Not my students!"

"Sample size too small!"

"Not my students!"
Research Questions:
#1 - Can we measure levels of student engagement in the classroom?
#2 - Will levels of student engagement vary as a function of how important the instructor views the engagement practice in the class?
#3 - Could these measures of classroom engagement be used to prompt instructional improvement initiatives?

CLASSE Student
Part I: Engagement Activities (n=19)
Part II: Cognitive Skills (n=5)
Part III: Other Educational Practices (n=10)
Part IV: Class Atmosphere Impressions (n=4)
Part V: Optional Course-specific Items (n=8)
Part VI: Demographic Items (n=3)

B. CLASSE Users Survey: Preliminary Pilot Test Results
2008-2009 CLASSE User’s Survey
Response Rate = 51% (21 of 41)
Total Classes = 480
Total Faculty = 172
Total Student Respondents = 10,115

Survey Items
1. Problems administering the CLASSE? Biggest obstacles?
2. Problems/obstacles analyzing and/or reporting CLASSE results?
3. Faculty reactions to their CLASSE results?
4. What did you learn from CLASSE results you didn’t expect?
5. What CLASSE findings came as no surprise?
6. How can administration, analysis and/or reporting of CLASSE be improved?
7. Do you plan to administer the CLASSE again? Why? Why not?

Pilot Study: Conclusions
1. Administration, Analysis, & Reporting Labor Intensive
2. CLASSE complements end-of-course evaluations but greater diagnostic utility….helped to prompt constructive changes
3. Create an online version; automate scoring and analysis
Pilot Study: Concerns

1. Over-surveying students
2. Conflicts with NSSE out in the field
3. Not Using the data (closing the loop)

C. Participation in the 2009-10 Pilot Study

How Much?
- Free to those who participated in the national administration of the NSSE within the past 3 years

What is the End-Users Role as a Participant in the Pilot Study?
- Produce survey instruments
- Obtain local IRB approval
- Administer the survey instruments
- Summarize, analyze and report results

How is one Authorized to Participate in the 2009-10 Pilot Study?
Steps:
- Decide how many faculty, how many classes
- Construct (up to 8) course-specific items
- Decide mode of administration (paper/web)
- Prepare drafts of your CLASSE Student and CLASSE Faculty instruments
- Seek authorization to participate from Amber Lambert (NSSE staff) (adlambert@indiana.edu) by attaching
  - drafts of CLASSE instruments
  - CLASSE Item Usage Proposal
- Decide mode of administration (paper/web)

Special eCLASSE Now Available
- Once authorization for participation is obtained, contact Bob.smallwood@bua.edu for a free copy of
  - generic SurveyMonkey eCLASSE instruments and/or
  - Excel-based analysis & reporting applications

D. Discussion: Reactions & Impressions
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1. Potential value as a supplemental tool
2. Formative vs. Summative Assessment
3. Faculty Development
4. Student Learning

Thanks for your attention & participation

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