

April 28, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Directors and Department Heads

FROM: Marc Hoit, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Information Technology

SUBJECT: Turning Technologies approved as campus standard for classroom response systems

In an effort to best serve the needs of students and faculty using classroom response systems (“clickers”) while also deciding upon a cost-effective purchasing and support model for the university, the Associate Deans for Academic Affairs (ADAA) passed a motion at their April 16 meeting to support establishing TurningPoint technology as the campus-wide clicker standard for NC State. The motion further stated that

- TurningPoint clickers would in general be student-owned and maintained, and
- If a faculty member or department wished to use a different clicker technology, the faculty member’s department would be responsible for providing clickers for those students.

This decision followed the ADAA’s review of the findings of the Campus Clicker Standards Task Group. The university’s Classroom Environment Committee (CEC) formed this working group in 2006 to address issues caused by the proliferation of various classroom response systems on campus. A growing number of students were being asked to use (and, in some cases, purchase) multiple clickers for different classes. There was also no way to develop an efficient and cost-effective purchasing and support model. In 2007, after detailed product evaluations, the Task Group chose Turning Technologies for a pilot study in classrooms supported by the Office of Information Technology (OIT) Classroom Technology services. Over the past two years the pilot study included faculty and staff assessments of the technology as well as focus groups and surveys of clicker use across campus.

As a result of this decision, OIT will expand the number of ClassTech-supported classrooms that are equipped for the use of Turning Point clickers. Faculty will be able to request a receiver be installed in any ClassTech-supported room. They will be offered training in the use of the technology and will receive on-call support should the receiver equipment fail. If their students don’t already own TurningPoint clickers, faculty may require them to purchase the devices for class use. Students in classrooms with TurningPoint technology supported by colleges or departments may also be required to purchase the TurningPoint clickers. While faculty or departments may choose to use and support another classroom response technology on campus, they will also need to purchase and support the student clicker devices. Students should not be required to purchase another brand of clicker other than the supported TurningPoint XR keypads.

Send any questions about using clickers in classrooms to classtech@ncsu.edu or contact the NC State Help Desk at 919 515-HELP (5-4357).