Size Matters:
Tips and Techniques for Teaching Large Classes

Brian
CETL Workshop
October 18, 2018
What's the Problem...

For Students?

For Faculty?
What we imagine
What we get?

BORING CLASS

EVERYONE "TAKES NOTES" WITH LAPTOP
UI Snapshot

- 53% of classes have fewer than 20 students
- Student-Faculty Ratio: 16:1
- 93% of graduating seniors reported being satisfied with their opportunities to interact with faculty
- >80% were satisfied with class size, academic rigor, student-faculty interactions, and personal attentiveness to students.
- UI advertises a “personalized learning experience” for undergrads

- What challenges, expectations, and opportunities exist in this mix?
- Do you think class sizes will go up?
Some (non-UI) Data

**ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE**
The size of the class made it _____ to participate meaningfully in class discussion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>W1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easier</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harder</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Different</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ANONYMITY**
The size of the class made me feel _____ anonymous than in smaller classes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>W1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Different</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MOTIVATION TO PARTICIPATE**
The size of the class made me feel ______ willing to participate in class discussions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>W1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Different</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YET FOR THE QUALITY OF DISCUSSION**...
The size of the class had a ____ effect on the quality of class discussion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>W1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implications?

• What does this tell us about our students?

• Do they like anonymity?

• When you think about where they and what they do, what do you think their strategy is?

• Loss of control
Faculty: Challenges and Solutions

• The biggest challenge is…
  o Grading
  o Student engagement
  o Quality of instruction
  o Inclusion
  o Other

• Solutions?
Options

- Pause with intentionality
- Clickers, Sli-do, Plickers, Poll Everywhere
- Interactive Lecture
- Quick Writes
- Clearest/Muddiest Points
- Think-Pair-Share
- Work on assignments/problems in class
- Case Studies
- Peer Review
- Informal groups and formal groups
  - Are you bound to your space?
- Make ‘em Work!
- Work the Room