

CSULB ACADEMIC SENATE RETREAT FEEDBACK FALL 2011



Topic and details

- “Connect! Teaching, Learning, and Working on a Digital Campus”
- Date: November 3, 2011
- Attendees: 195
- Number of electronic evaluations submitted: 67

Retreat was successful in generating discussion about technology use on our campus (81% positive)

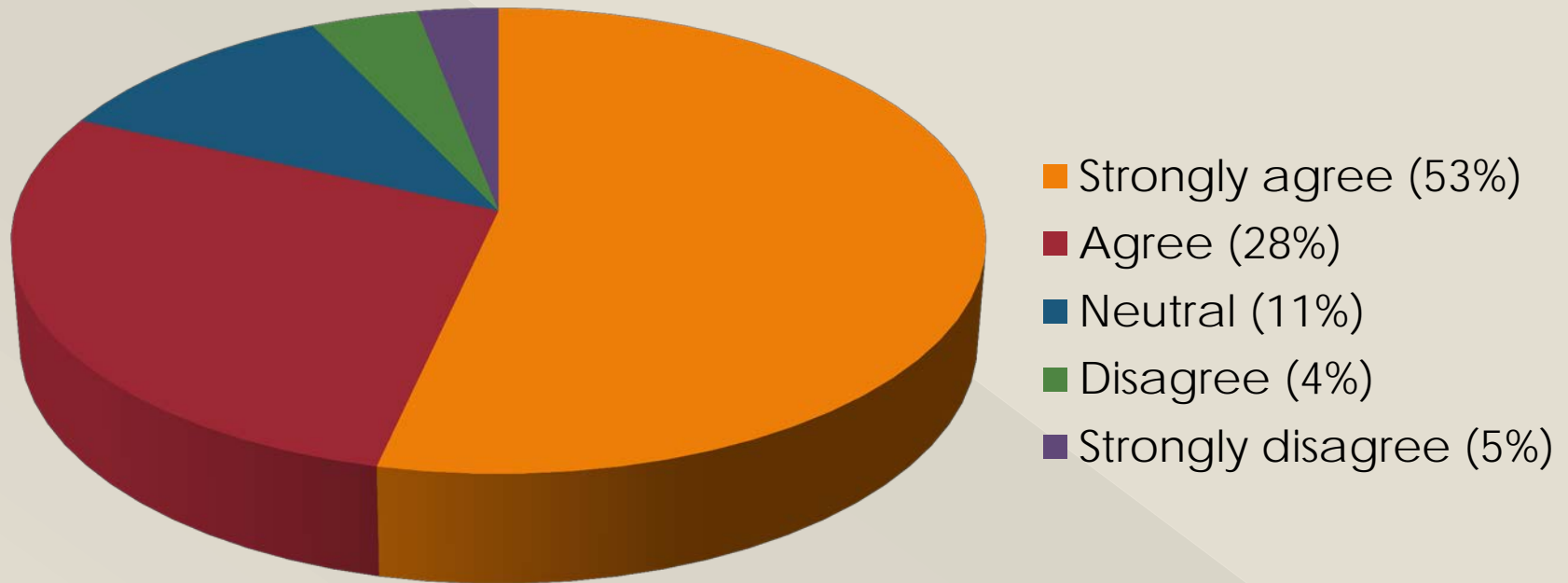
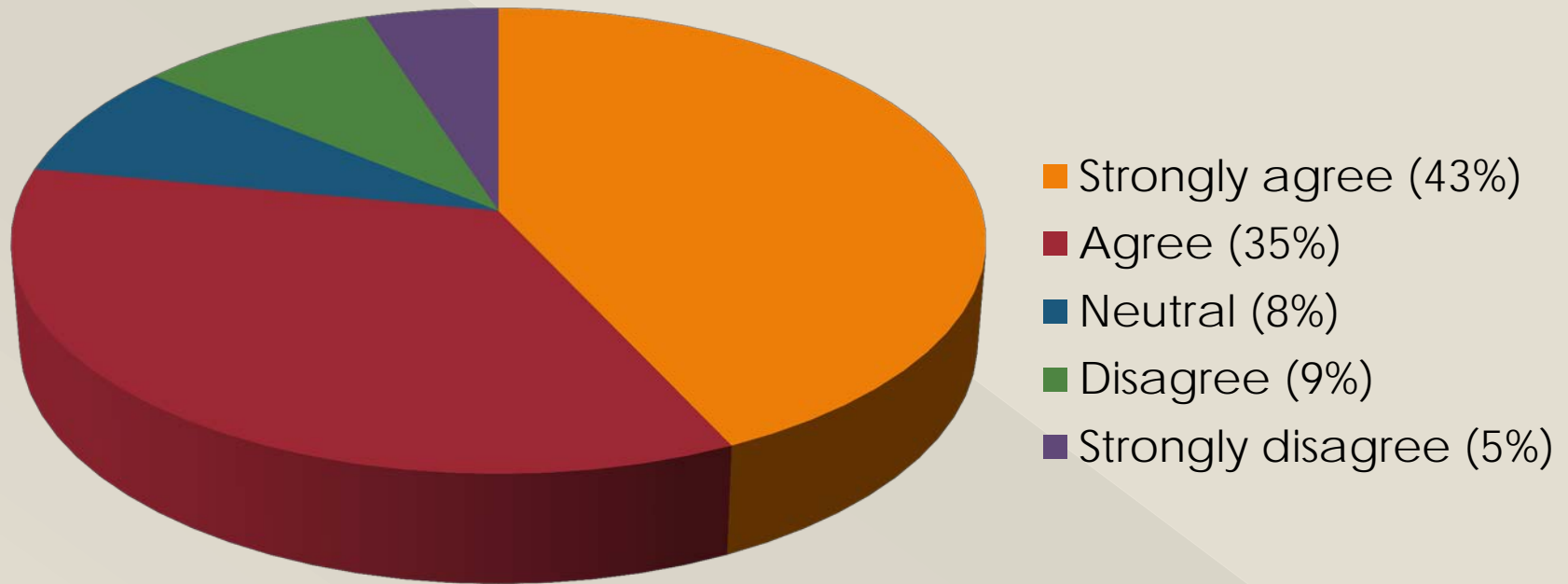
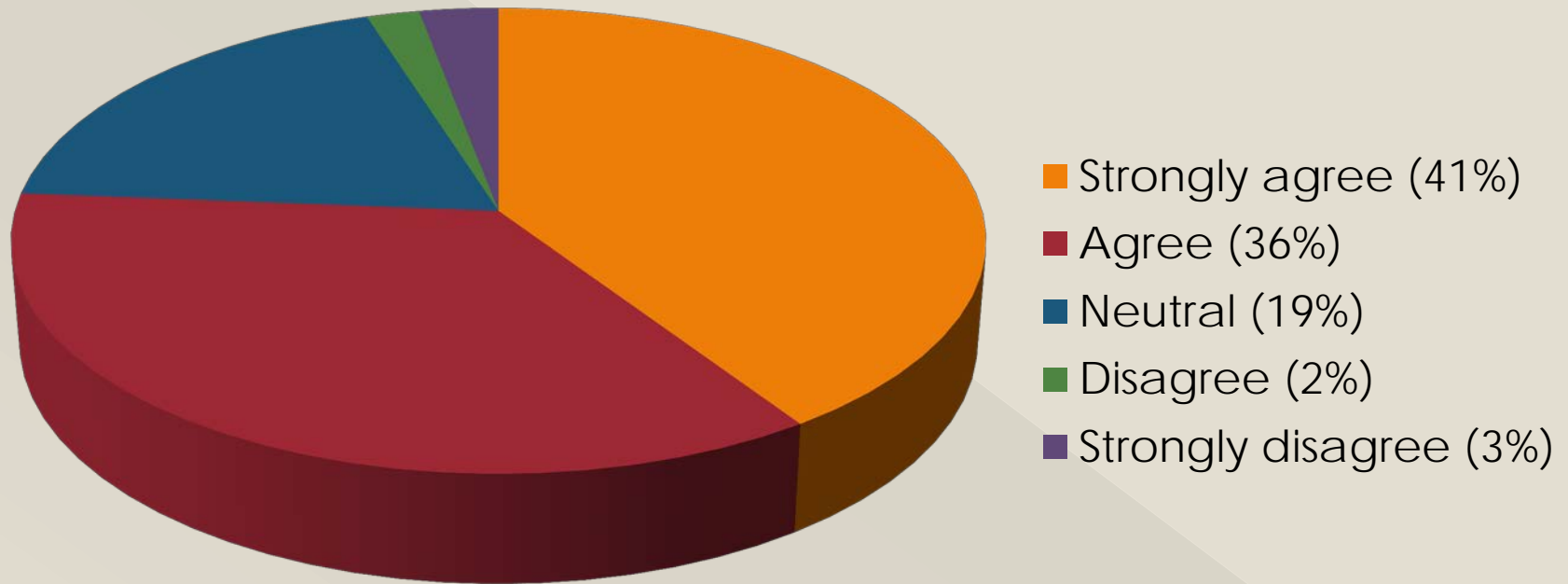


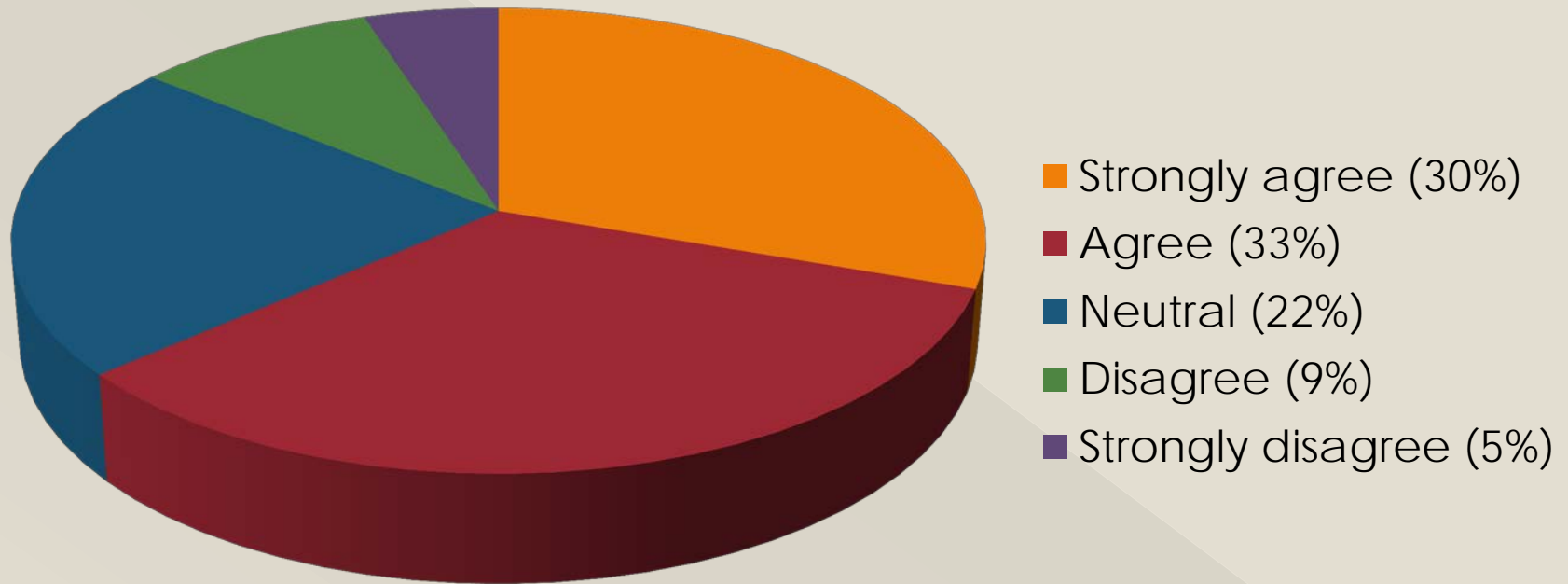
Table-top exercises were effective (78% positive)



Retreat was successful in contextualizing views toward technology (77% positive)



I feel confident results of retreat
will be considered on campus
(63% positive)



Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- If you really wanted the students' perspectives on technology, they should have been allowed to address the retreat.
- Provide snacks and beverages at the beginning instead of the end, so that participants can eat while talking and listening
- No, as I feel this was the most successful of all I have been to, a model to be followed because of its success
- I loved Thurs afternoon format. Please keep it.
- Make the "presentation" part shorter. It was effective, but perhaps a bit too lengthy.

Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- Better prepare the table moderators; the discussion veered off topic and one person dominated the discussion and the moderator could have better facilitated the conversation.
- In reviewing this Senate retreat, I have one comment or suggestion to offer. There are times when combining faculty, staff and students at one table is preferred. At this retreat, as the uses of technology for faculty and staff are so different, more concrete ideas or suggestions may have occurred if staff and faculty were seated separately. Thus, I suggest for future retreats, determining where attendees should be seated is planned by the type of insightful information that is expected to be retrieved.
- Excellent, repeat next year with new topic.
- No
- Presentation from an IT person

Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- Take a poll, doodle to see what date would be more convenient for everyone.
- No
- N/A
- Keep students included
- NA
- N/A
- the time for the table discussion was short for all the people at the table and all the tasks assigned. Assume that the audience has read the material and spend more time in discussion of the topics at the table.

Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- Thanks for inviting members of the Alumni Assoc. and learning about the challenges facing faculty, students and staff in regards to technology. We hope that their input and perspectives were valuable to the overall discussion.
- This format was very good with some light-hearted factoids, interactive surveys, advance readings, and an excellent presenter with Lisa Vollendorf.

Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- The audience participation and feedback with the clickers was great.
- More time to talk with colleagues, less time spent on material already posted for reading / viewing.
- Not at this time
- Focus on one issue and frame the discussion by asking participants to answer one central question.
- If it is on technology it would be helpful to know the current status of technology use at CSULB.

Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- Conversations became rushed in the interests of time. Perhaps less questions to address so they could be addressed more substantially by table groups.
- My table leader could not stay on topic. The rest of us had to keep trying to get back to the questions. The table discussion was very unsuccessful, which is a shame. While in recent years the retreat has had different names, I find that it tends to all merge into an retreat about technology and how the faculty are technologically different from the students. While this may be very true, it is not the only issue that is of significance to the faculty and in fact, it is getting to be old hat. None of the students assigned to my table came. That is a shame. I think we should continue to make the effort to have the students there and perhaps find an incentive for them. Even though one way to look at the readings being short is that this is to save time for people who are really busy, there is a different view - that it has bought into the (GenX/digital age) mentality of short blubs and sound bites. We ourselves are becoming less able to sustain attention!

Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- While it is not possible to have the perfect combination of people at each table, the more likely it is that there is a majority of faculty with at least one student and no more than one staff/administrator at each table is really helpful. When there are too many staff or administrators at a table the discussion isn't as insightful as when multiple faculty and a student are participating.

Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- It was too short, I would have liked to hear the things all the table came up with, not just a select few.
- Continue to include a broad range of constituents, especially students.
- It would be helpful to come away with a product as a result of the retreat. For example: an actual set of next steps to advance academic technology.
- always schedule them on thursday afternoons!!!
- The raffle prizes should be awarded to students only.
- A Friday retreat may be more feasible as faculty don't have to juggle retreat and class activities on the same day.
- No

Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- It was nice to cut it down to 2 hours, but not sure if that was quite enough time, I don't feel like we came up with any solid initiatives, if that was even the goal.
- The shorter format is excellent.
- none
- Perhaps a bit longer. Some of the information shared by colleagues was interesting--more time to dig a bit deeper.
- Become less inclusive in your invitations. My table had only ONE faculty member and only TWO (I was one) members of Academic Senate. I was pleased to have 2 students at my table.
- Discuss the lack of personal computers of our low income students and other students as well. What can the University do to make available up to date computers (laptops) for those students? Rentals? Check-out? Grants?

Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- Longer break out session.
- This format was efficient and productive.
- no
- I thought the tone of this retreat was so much better than previous retreats. However, with a broad topic like technology, the scope of the questions needed to be more specific and focused. Not everyone at my table taught and it seemed like it excluded them from the conversation. If the questions were to foster communication, the parameters needed to be more specific. For example, when the question about innovations came up, people didn't know whether to discuss things they used in teaching, in their non-teaching jobs or in their personal lives....it made for disjointed conversations and I also believe it was a contributing factor to the colored sheets not being coherent....people didn't know what to write.

Do you have any suggestions for making future retreats successful?

- Ask a graphic designer to produce the slide presentation for better readability of slide content. Dark text on a dark background has low readability. Also, the projected area of the slides was too low and not visible to a large portion of the audience. Consider projecting the slides only on the upper portion of the screen so they can be seen over the heads of people in the front.
- no
- Move back to Fridays so we can allow more time for discussion and planning
- there are too many people to get a true sense of what is needed, Our table was very generic to keep everyone happy

Do you have anything else you would like to add?

- I think that think that the retreat was well presented and succeeded at providing faculty, staff, and students with good background information and statistics with regards to technology use. But I feel that nothing new was gained from my table discussion. The presentation on technology was the best part of the retreat.
- Thanks for the leadership of Lisa and Dan
- Great job, Lisa and Dan
- Kudos to the Chair for a great retreat.
- Nicely done!
- Thank you for allowing us, students to attend.
- More door prizes!!!
- It was well done.
- The reception is a good idea however it ended up with people catching up with each other and not discussing the topics of the retreat (it seemed). It would be good to have some individuals that were using technology effectively to provide insights.

Do you have anything else you would like to add?

- The exercises (where someone pulled an answer out of a bucket) were not successful--need to test them before hand. Also, when talking about technology, we use it differently. I think the staff people were a little bored when the faculty kept talking about teaching. It would be better to split the groups for things like this.
- Thank you.
- I did not learn anything new at this retreat. Perhaps with a clearer and tighter focus and more knowledgeable table leaders discussions in the future could be richer and more productive.

Do you have anything else you would like to add?

- Great experience at my first CSULB Academic Senate Retreat!
- The tone of the retreat was positive and generated some thoughtful discussion. I wish that group submissions about challenges, innovations, and practices were NOT selected out of a hat and read to the group without screening. Some of the selected submissions were either incomprehensible or just nonsense. I saw the intent of the final exercise as a way to establish a priority for things to do. But it became just a comedic part of the program. With a current AS policy for academic technology that is almost two decades old, we have some work to do.
- More prizes!

Do you have anything else you would like to add?

- Great experience at my first CSULB Academic Great job, Lisa and Dan!
- Where can I get me one of those Siri things?
- Topic was very timely since we are going through major technological changes.
- Excellent Retreat! Very timely, very important topics. Chairs Vollendorf and O'Connor are to be congratulated for organizing an outstanding event.

Do you have anything else you would like to add?

- As a member of the Alumni Assoc. Board of Directors and an “older” person, I was interested in the comments of the various people at my table. I thought I was the only one who struggled with the complexities of technology!
- Thanks for inviting the Alums—I enjoyed this very much and was impressed by all involved.

Do you have anything else you would like to add?

- More door prizes!
- Thank you to Lisa and Dan for your leadership; having students in attendance make a huge difference! Best, Marquita Grenot-Scheyer
- Lisa and Dan did a spectacular job. It really was a very enjoyable afternoon.
- I learned more in the readings provided in advance of the retreat than I did at the retreat.
- The retreat felt rushed since there wasn't a lot of time to have any in-depth conversations (only two hours)

Do you have anything else you would like to add?

- Great leadership in our Senate... The dynamic duo of Lisa and Dan rocks!
- Thank you so much putting this retreat together. The topic was very timely and the structure of the discussion was effective. Also appreciate the humor, which allows folks to relax and open up.
- I did like the reception last year in February at the beginning of the new semester. I think there is a point to having the academic senate get together socially. I am not sure this reception (near the 2/3rd marks of the semester) was positioned as well. Perhaps a reception near the beginning of the academic year and the retreat later might work better.
- Maybe a little more time, no necessarily an entire day, but certainly longer than 2 hours.

Suggestions for future retreats

- The table discussion questions were not as focused as I would have liked.
- Ways to survive with budget cuts and actually do better
- Academic writing
- Shared Governance-accountability and implementation. What the campus does well and what it can improve on.
- Plagiarism. sustainability.
- teaching innovations
- Changing culture
- Campus climate--how to make it more positive and hopeful in the midst of the budget chaos...

Suggestions for future retreats

- 1. How do we make general education relevant? 2. How do we create more opportunities for faculty-student research? 3. How do we cultivate life-long learning? 4. How can we frame our students' success so that it goes beyond increasing graduation rates?
- Should CSULB aspire to be a national powerhouse? Are we ready for a quantum leap?
- I suggest trying an off-campus speaker who might help us generate thoughtful discussion and useful ideas. Or maybe just a person to inspire us in education in this downtime. The money the reception could be used for the speaker instead. The table discussion format is getting old. Think about a new format for getting ideas and concerns. Get the students there.
- Accessibility (ATI)

Suggestions for future retreats

- A great topic to talk about in the future would be regarding developing communication and fostering relationships with faculty and administration. This can help to better the gaps between students and faculty and the ability to work together can increase.
- Keep up the good work!
- It felt like a good beginning, not sure if the information provided by participants will be utilized to address issues raised.
- Lack of access to new computers by our low income students.
- Making the most of the resources we have at our disposal on campus in tough budget times.

Suggestions for future retreats

- Allocation of funding for faculty, departmental staff and equipment/software for instruction. For example: Why is it that some departments have very high tenure density and others have very low tenure density? This is a funding issue that needs to be addressed at the university-wide level. Position search priority needs to be given to departments with lower tenure density before positions are filled in departments with higher density. This prioritization of funding can also be applied to departmental staff and resources for equipment/software instructional needs. The availability and distribution of funding seems to be so random and not based on need.
- More tangible topics related to CSULB/CSU (e.g. If we're talking about technology, then CSU Online or online education)
- What campus policies are lacking to make life in higher education better, i.e. workload for large lectures or thesis, department standards of behavior, etc.