

Seminar – 10/8/13

Topic: Using technology in the classroom.

1. First, we discussed the students' mid-term evaluations (the ones they administered to their own classes). We had them sit in their small groups and discuss amongst themselves a few things, such as what they might consider changing, what positive feedback made them feel good, and how they thought the whole process went overall.
2. We asked them straight-out about what worked for their evaluation (time given, in or out of the room, etc). We thought this might help us in our own evaluations, as well as establishing a norm for this procedure.
3. We asked them if there were any negatives they were experiencing, either something they found on their evaluation forms or something they were just considering on their own or had noticed about themselves.
4. We discussed our own evaluations, which we had given to them the previous meeting. We discussed the purpose of the seminar, grading policies, the TA handbook (with the thought that we should have gotten it out earlier), creating a schedule of when we meet (even though it is every two weeks uniformly, a few students have missed class saying they forgot), topics suggested by the TAs that would be helpful to their teaching (specifically presentation skills, advisement about courses and qualifiers, etc) and the in-service—when and where, and whether it should take an extra day, and perhaps be more targeted towards their jobs.
5. Lane gave a presentation about myUNM and UNM learn, both of which were helpful and useful. Lane showed how TAs could use these programs to deliver material and information to their students, how to add/drop students etc on myUNM, and how to use the gradebook on “learn.”
6. We brought the class back to a discussion: do you use technology in the classroom? This was a full-group discussion, and went smoothly. After this, Elliot discussed how (and if it is appropriate to) use power-point slides in lectures, and the benefits and drawbacks of doing this.
7. We broke up the class into stats and math students, and Elliot discussed Stats qualifiers, and Tim discussed math qualifiers. This didn't have anything to do with teaching, but was added to the list because this was overwhelmingly the number one thing the students told us on our mid-term evaluations. See reflections for more thoughts on this.