



# Engaging Students Through Technology

SYMPOSIUM 2015

## Event Summary

The 2015 symposium attracted 240 registrations from all twelve Penn schools. About 150 people attended the day-long event. Morning activities included opening remarks, a faculty panel and a student panel. Afternoon activities included three rounds of concurrent sessions and a lightning round. We received 942 responses to the undergraduate student survey conducted for the symposium.

The feedback survey gathered 51 responses (a 34% response rate). Fully 96% rated their experience overall as Excellent or Good. A selection of quotes is provided below.

### Reflections

“There are a lot of really innovative things happening on campus, and we need to be better about celebrating them.”

“WIC is my favorite part of./team on campus. Thanks for all of your hard work.”

“The community of people doing innovative things with tech at Penn is actually quite robust, and I felt like I was reintroduced to it in a really delightful way. We could probably do a better job maintaining that community all year long.”

“I like the way it stimulates my thinking about teaching”

“The idea of having students at the board during class in a variety of ways. Engaging students in creating new content of enduring value.”

### Opening Remarks

“Excellent. Really showed the scope of online learning at Penn and its future. Helpful big picture stuff.”

“This was a nice overview about the direction that Penn in taking in incorporating more active learning components into teaching and making resources available to support teachers.”

### Faculty Panel

“Technology used in a meaningful way in a curriculum is useful for students but doesn't replace the expertise and skills of the instructors who employ it.”

“Always enjoy seeing what other faculty are up to and learning things I may be able to use/apply.”

“Such creative ideas, programming for humanists, classes centered around real research problem w professor as 'PI', producing new knowledge.”

“The presentations on Virgil (Joseph Farrell), the Lighboard (Phil Gressman), and Panopto (Peter Fader) were excellent!”

“From Melanie Peron's French immersion project: Creative and contemporary pedagogy is effective and even practical by incorporating online tools with student experiences and observations. / From Pete Fader: Solutions can be created for puzzling aspects of online education.”

“Nice diversity of perspectives and approaches. Great to see specific applications in different contexts.”

“Melanie Peron's presentation was fantastic”

“The panel was very good. Especially, Pete Fader (Marketing) was excellent. He showed us a great example of active and successful use of technology in a big course. It was good to hear his student's view as well.”

## Student Panel

"It was interesting to hear the student's perspective on technology use. Piazza could be used in some of my courses. I'm curious to try it."

"Always one of the highlights for me. Really appreciate student perspective - helps keeps us on our toes and avoid dangerous assumptions about what we're doing and how we think it works."

"What great energy they all have. Hearing how students are engaging with faculty and each other while developing knowledge and skills was refreshing. I learned from each of them."

"Remarkably thoughtful and articulate students"

## Concurrent Sessions

"Amazing presentation! Clear and engaging. Exactly what I expect from these kinds of presentations. You can really see the high level of experience and skills of the presenter."

*–What Can Tech Do?*

"Yes, it was excellent and gave me more ideas for the projects that my students are already developing for my courses."

*–Infographics for Data Visualization*

"The presentation of the new features was great and the presenter handled questions really well - the level of fear people have on this campus around the use of technology in their courses is kind of frustrating. The WIC staff is incredibly positive, innovative and supportive in the face of such fear."

*–Preview of the New Canvas Interface*

"I had so many 'inspirations' from this presentation. It was well articulated and simply beautiful."

*–Instagram for Digital Collections*

"Very dynamic presenter - I'd wanted to see something print out, and I did!"

*–3D Printing*

"This was a good review of what all faculty should consider when developing a canvas site and in general, whenever we teach. This should be posted somewhere so all can access it."

*–Accessibility in Canvas*

"I got quite a few ideas on how to use Canvas (esp. Modules) more effectively."

*–Canvas Features for "Bite-Sized" Learning*

## Lightning Round

"Always fun. Just enough information to give you new ideas and make you want to try new things. I presented for the first time and found it less stressful than it looked like, so overall a great experience!"

"The format was good especially at the end of a long and thought-provoking day!"

"The time limit puts more energy and dynamic to this session as the time is very short and the speakers are forced to showcase the best part of their idea and practice. We learnt a lot from different people's practice."

Organized by Penn Libraries, the event was co-sponsored by Co-sponsored by CAMRA, the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Graduate Student Center, the Online Learning Initiative, the Penn Language Center, SAS Computing and the Weingarten Learning Resources Center (VPUL).

Symposium materials are online at <http://tinyurl.com/pennsymp2015>