Advancing Communication of Animal Health Professionals: A Transition in a Veterinary Curriculum from Paper Notes to Paperless Notes and TabletPCs

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Student Computing Initiative

- Cost of the program
- Uniformity
- Flexibility
- Support
- Value and Convenience
- Choice of tabletPCs
Disseminating the Information about the Initiative

- Orientation Week
- Interview weekends
- Mailings after acceptance
- Still to do – presence on Admissions web site
Hardware

• Year One
  ▫ Toshiba TabletPC Portege’ M400

Year Two
  Toshiba TabletPC Portege’ M700

Year Three
  Fujitsu TabletPC Lifebook
Software

- Microsoft’s One Note
- iTunes
- Security/Antivirus Software
- Backup Software
About this section

Examples of what to put in this section
Planning a trip? Use Microsoft Office OneNote 2007 to gather all of your travel information in one place. Store such things as:

- Flight information
- Car rental information
- Other transportation details
- Lodging information
- Maps and directions
- Itinerary
- Activities and sightseeing opportunities

Tips
- Copy information from a Web site into OneNote 2007 as text. If you use Windows Internet Explorer, look for the OneNote button in the toolbar. Select the information you want to copy and click this button to send the information to OneNote 2007 in the Unfiled Notes section.
- Capture an article on the Web and insert it into Microsoft Office OneNote 2007 as a searchable image. To do this, on the Insert menu, click Screen Clipping or press Windows Logo Key + S.
- To save e-mail messages in OneNote 2007, use the Send to OneNote feature in Microsoft Office Outlook 2007.
- To e-mail your travel information from OneNote 2007, go to the page you want to send, and then, on the File menu, click E-mail.
- Need to print everything out? Press the CTRL key and click the page tabs of the pages that you want to include. On the File menu, click Print.
Survey responses

• Responses and anecdotal evidence indicate the majority of the students like the tabletPCs and OneNote software.
  ▫ Year One respondents were n = 59 (out of 112)
  ▫ Year Two respondents were n = 39 (out of 109)

• Positive comments
  ▫ Take notes efficiently
  ▫ Organize notes
  ▫ Find information with the search feature ("tagging")

• Negative/downside
  ▫ Self reported the ease to do non-classroom related computer activities in the classroom
Concerns by the students

- Information about the initiative
- Physical strain
  - Eyes, headaches
- Preference to study with paper notes
Successful components of implementation of the initiative:

- Implementation one class at a time
- Hiring of computer specialists dedicated to the initiative
- Team approach between Computer and Technical Support (IT) and DISC Services (instruction and training)
- Requiring everyone to use the same model
What we “overlooked” but (easily) corrected

- Communication to applicants and students
- Changes in hardware by the companies (Ok, not so easily corrected)
- Back up drives
- Infrastructure
- Electricity needed
- Comfortable training sessions
- Sanitation of tabletPCs in the laboratory
Modifications

• Selection of OneNote as the organizing software
• Adoption by the faculty to best presentation practices
Did we do it?

- First class that we started with are beginning their 3\textsuperscript{rd} year
- Currently “serving” the needs of the students
- True longitudinal studies will determine if we met the objectives of graduating lifelong learners and professionals who willing adopt or even seek out new technology