2007 Summer Institute Post-Institute Evaluation

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July 27, 2007

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2007 Summer Institute: Post-Institute Evaluation, Executive Summary

As part of our evaluation process for the *2007 Summer Institute on Teaching and Learning with Technology*, we sought participant feedback post-institute, in addition to the daily participant feedback we received as part of our more informal, formative evaluation process. On May 25, 2007, Summer Institute participants (n=43) were asked to complete a survey about their overall impressions of the Summer Institute, and their perceptions on what they learned during the Institute. The participants were sent another reminder email in mid-June to complete the evaluation. The last evaluation submitted was on June 16, 2007, with twenty-five of the forty-three participants responding to the survey, for a response rate of approximately 58%. Of the respondents, twenty-one were faculty, two were support staff attending the Summer Institute with a faculty member, and two were DELTA staff attending as guests.

Of the respondents, 12 were from the morning cohort and 13 from the afternoon cohort. All respondents indicated that the quality of the Summer Institute was very good or better, with the majority of respondents, 80%, indicating the Summer Institute was Excellent. This is consistent with previous feedback, as the Summer Institute has always been a highly rated event over the nine years we have run this program. Additionally, all respondents (100%) indicated they would recommend the Summer Institute to a colleague (another statistic consistent with previous years).

Important changes that were recommended for the Summer Institute included offering sessions later in the summer where everyone comes back together to discuss what they have learned and problems that have been encountered. Another suggestion was to break up the sessions by level of use; putting people who have experience with Vista in one group, and beginners in another group. Participants liked best overall connecting with other faculty and getting their very own buddy in DELTA, and the lunch time speakers; i.e., getting to see the success of an online course through other instructors. In asking participants to rate their own abilities, 92% of participants that responded to the post-institute survey indicated that the Summer Institute gave them a sense of the resources available to help create technology enhanced course materials and 88% of the respondents said that Summer Institute increased their ability to envision how they can use technology to support their own face to face class. 24% plans to create a completely online/distance education course in the next year; 32% indicated they will create a hybrid course in the next year; and 36% plan to utilize web-supplemented instructional materials to use in their face-to-face courses. Only 8% of respondents were unsure of what their next step would be in the knowledge that they gained through the Summer Institute.

Once again, the professionalism, helpfulness, technical knowledge, and availability of our staff were primarily ranked as "very good" or "excellent" by all respondents. Respondents were impressed with our organization, in particular often stating that the best overall thing about the Summer Institute was the staff - "professional, patient, good-humored, knowledgeable, friendly, eager to assist, and both aware and responsive to faculty fears/ concerns about teaching with technology." Comments from participants often reveal how valuable this program is to them, and this year was no exception. Following are some selected participant comments from Summer Institute, 2007:

- *The summer institute was a wonderful opportunity. Participating in the summer institute helped to remove my blinders towards the capabilities of online education.*
- *A very professional and needed service!*
- *Highly recommend this for everyone. The technology is here to stay, so better get to know it before it's too late.*
- *My thanks to all. This was an excellent use of my time. I will use what I've learned. The encouragement and examples of what current classes look like and use was very helpful. Best regards.*
- *Great experience—of course, I will likely attend again, and I am a bit concerned about the growing popularity of SI—will there be more slots in the future?*
- *I attended in '05 and got a great start with Vista etc, this '07 session has allowed me to fill in a lot of holes and be more confident to extend my class activities etc. I hope to be a repeater in '09. It seems that every other year provides a lot of new "stuff" to augment my class with.*

Quality Indicators

Quality of the Summer Institute

      Participants were asked to rate the overall quality of the Summer Institute using a 1-5 Likert scale. Overall, the majority (80%) of respondents rated the overall quality of the institute as "excellent," with the remainder (20%) rating it as "very good." This is consistent with previous feedback; that no one has rated the Summer Institute below the "very good" level.

Overall Quality of Summer Institute

20%

80%

Excellent
Very Good
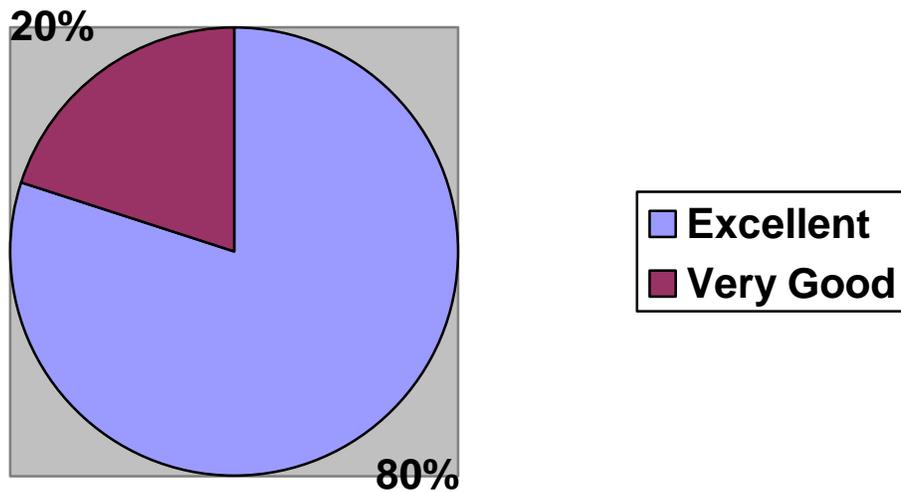
Recommendation of Summer Institute to Others

Additionally, participants were asked if they would recommend the Summer Institute to other faculty interested in learning more about teaching and learning with technology. All respondents indicated that they would recommend the Summer Institute to other faculty, and in an open-response question, were given the opportunity to explain their response.

Would you recommend the Summer Institute to other faculty interested in learning more about teaching and learning with technology? (n=19)	
Yes	25
No	0

Category (why recommend?)	Comments
Helpful Instructors/ Staff/Opportunies to Meet Others	▪ *It gives you a good overview of what's available. The staff encourages you to ask for help when you need it so you are less likely to hesitate to do so than if you hadn't heard them reiterate this point. You meet faculty you might otherwise not get to meet. You enjoy good lunches! Etc.*
Informative/ Efficient Overview of TLT	▪ *The pace was really good, and it was actually fun, which I didn't expect, since I'm technology-impaired* ▪ *Excellent introduction to online learning whether one is teaching DE or integrating technology into the classroom* ▪ *It is a great way to see the range of technologies available.* ▪ *Well organized and comprehensive… extremely useful information regardless of your stage of "technological advancement!"* ▪ *Excellent info and instruction! Just too short!* ▪ *I thought it was very informative and stayed on topic the majority of the time. Very good learning pace.* ▪ *The hands on "lab focus" helped me to see the possibilities. I want the top-of-the-range version now, but realize that it is a steady as you grow development. SI Support is fantastic.* ▪ *Availability of hands-on experience, chance to learn from the experts directly, opportunity to hear from our colleagues who do DE teaching activities, establishing a DE faculty/staff network which will benefit me for future DE initiatives and issues.* ▪ *The summer institute provided such in depth, hands on opportunities to explore teaching and learning technology.* ▪ *It was a great experience for those teaching a DE course and also for those who want to improve their in-class experience* ▪ *The SI was hands on introduction to technology tools and concepts that (in my opinion) all faculty need exposure to* ▪ *Very practical* ▪ *It was very helpful. I only wish it was marketed to new faculty so that you could deal with these things prior to being inundated with other things.* ▪ *SI is designed for novice and experienced faculty. Additionally, SI focuses on how technology enhances learning and not technology for technology sake- a learning-centered approach. Additionally, the constant modeling of best practices research (given that we are a research extensive university) was impressive* ▪ *Useful information, tools, contacts* ▪ *Not only a great overview, I learned quite a lot of how to do too!* ▪ *It offers a good overview of options and resources.*
Motivational/ Attitudinal	▪ *I have attended the '06 SI and I will continue to mention the SI to my peers. It's the greatest.* ▪ *I think it is a valuable learning experience for faculty interested in teaching an online course* ▪ *The SI offered exposure to a wide variety of distance education techniques and programs. It's a great way to find out what programs and materials are available, before starting on one's own course.*

	▪ *Without formal exposure to the various technologies it is not possible to incorporate it/ them in an effective manner in the classroom.* ▪ *There is something for anybody at any level of computer/ online know-how*
Generates New Ideas	▪ *Really enjoyed seeing and experiencing new technology and thinking how I could incorporate those things into my own teaching.*

Most Important Changes to Make

In an effort to continually improve the Summer Institute experience for faculty, we always seek to identify the most important changes we can make for the next institute to be an even more useful, positive experience for the participants. These responses fell thematically into the following categories:

Category (what needs changing?)	Comment
Differentiated Learning paths/ Schedules/ Focus in Individual Needs	• *I'd like to see one or two presentations on courses that are king of "middle of the road." I'd like to see what I should shoot for in my first semester of teaching a DE class. The courses that we saw seemed really exemplary, and too much to achieve immediately.* • *Have a follow up Elluminate session on 2-3 training topics about 2-3 weeks after the SI, expressly for SI grads to use DE if they haven't already. Ex topics: Merlot, uses of DE in an actual setting etc.* • *Concurrent sessions or repeats of sessions for the Friday workshop-conference* • *On possible suggestion might be to break up the sessions by level of use. For example there were people who had never used WebCT and others who had used it more extensively. That way you could move faster for some folks who were more experienced (cover more) or slower for folks less experienced.* • *I would like to see a day or two added later in the summer where everyone comes back together to discuss what they have learned and problems that have been encountered.* • *I submitted many suggestions during the sessions and can't remember them all. One that sticks with me is creating a two track system… one for rank beginners (such as myself) and one for more experienced or returning learners.* • *Assignments can be little bit challenging, so participants must take them serious.* • *More buddy time, less Vista time.* • *More follow up workshops throughout the summer.*
Logistics	• *I think everything went very well. The only thing I noticed, that is more of a logistical thing is to put signs up on the last day so that the faculty can find the sessions they are looking for easier. I know a few people were wandering looking for the right place for their session.*
Pacing	• *Expand to two weeks…naw, just kidding… but really… personally, format and length was just right. Pity I had to jump back into my "real work" and have to catch up again with the DE development later* • *I can't honestly think of any. I'd like to have covered more material, but when I think back to the pace of each lesson, I don't think I could have handled any more material any faster.*
Instruction	• *It was sometimes unclear what we were supposed to do to prepare for the next class. Sometimes the objectives clearly described what was going to happen the next day, some days that wasn't so clear. Some of the readings were obviously more important to the instructor for the day than others. That should be made clear.* • *I think at times, the faculty got overwhelmed by the amount of materials presented. We could try to slow the lessons down, or take out some of the less vital information* • *Maybe a little more time with vista (in particular, since it seems to be the common ground that almost all participants will use or are using) and less*

	detailed time spent with current literature in the field… have us read that on our own rather than reviewing it all with us? • *On the first day, get someone with an in depth knowledge of students from the Education college to tell us what we are dealing with.* • *Not as many topics, and more time for the fewer ones- info overload was my only issue!* • *This was my second year at the institute. I felt it had improved from the previous year. It seemed more effective in that it covered areas/ issues that had immediate relevancy to getting started and yet ample details to move ahead. Can't think of any changes to suggest. Seems like you all are making changes based on feedback which makes it better anyway.* • *Concurrent sessions, if possible, so that participants can "pick and choose" which topics are most appropriate for their needs* • *Follow general intro to a subject directly with the in depth practice (next day).*

Liked Best Overall

Participants were asked what they liked best overall about the Summer Institute. In making the institute a better place to be, we'd like to keep the things intact that participants find appealing. These responses fell thematically into the following categories:
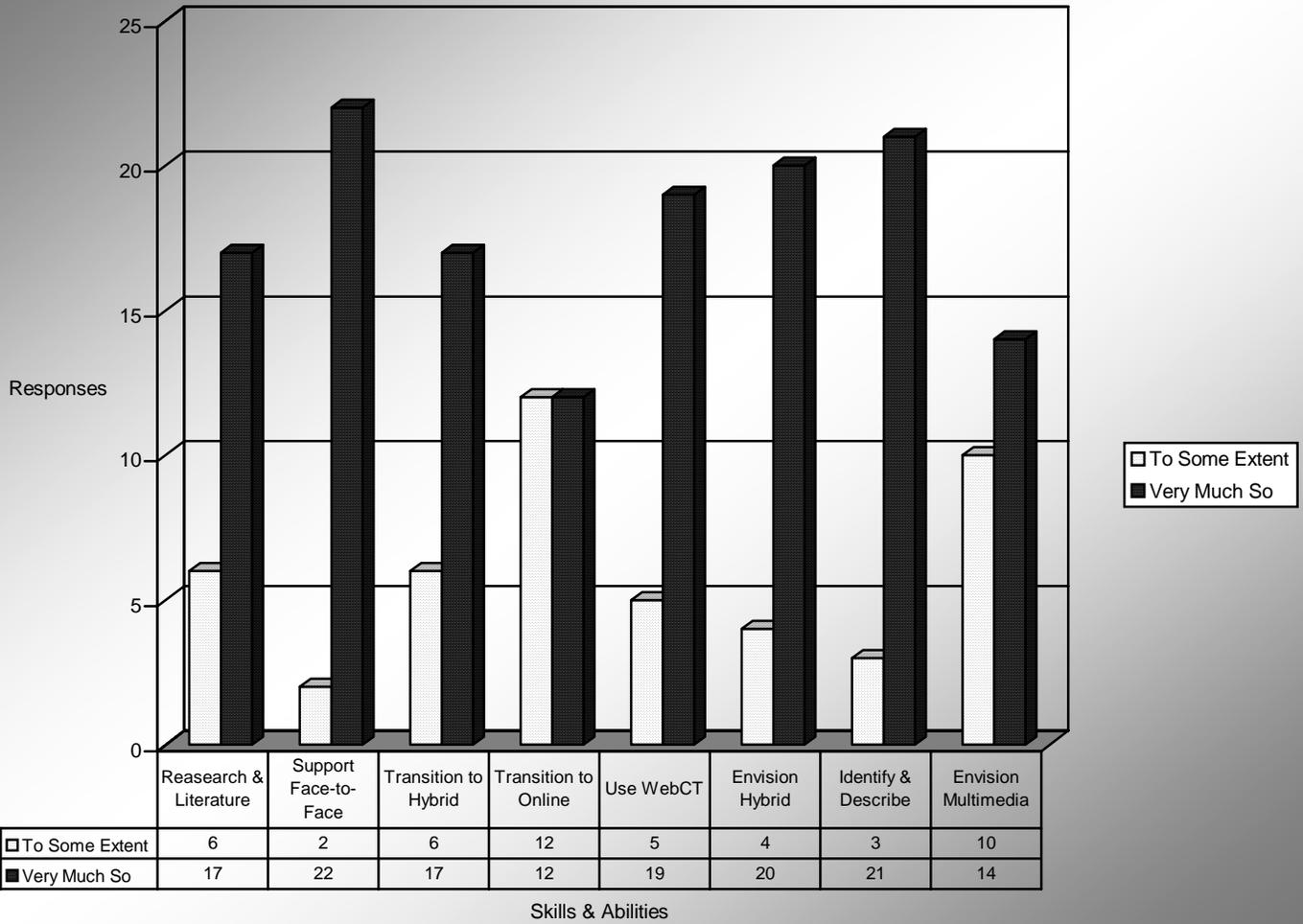
Category (Liked Best)	Comments
Instruction/Format	*The training reformat from the '05 SI was especially nice and beneficial. The luncheon speakers/topics were really good. Thankfully no bugs in the ENT course.* *Specifics of what each program could accomplish and how to do it* *Hands-on approach* *The dreamweaver classes and the staff helpfulness* *Format and joint lunches… good idea to create "one Institute" and not two* *I liked the hands on activity* *I like the hands-on ability to work with the course management systems* *Succinct sessions. Relevant material covered in the time constraints. Flexibility (am/pm sessions). Well organized Most of all- An excellent forum to meet people from diverse departments and share notes.* *Hands-on time learning WebCT Vista in the computer lab was very worthwhile* *General introduction to and initial practice in Vista* *Impossible to single out any on thing* *The emphasis on technology as a tool to aid pedagogy*
Camaraderie	*I think it is a great opportunity for faculty to get together, learn and help each other. SI did a great job of presenting very relevant sessions for everyone.* *Meeting other faculty* *Connecting with other faculty and getting my very own contact buddy in DELTA*
DELTA Staff (and staffing during the week)	*I thought the staff were really helpful and made it fun to be there* *It was great to have the hands-on experts right there to help with any tech problems so we could get on with the activities* *Availability of the trainers* *The staff- professional, patient, good-humored, knowledgeable, friendly, eager to assist, and both aware and responsive to faculty fears/concern about teaching with technology* *The people running it. Everybody was there to help and make sure participants got what they came for*
Overall	*The lunch time speakers, especially those that provided tangible examples of how they used what they learned through SI.* *I liked the lunch time speakers. I think showing the success of an online course motivated the faculty to want to learn more to achieve the success that some of the other faculty has* *The variety of topics covered, and the ability to go more in-depth on preferred topics during the Friday session. The length of the day was also great… not too much, not too little. I enjoyed the lunch sessions also.* *The institute taught me my capabilities and limitations in creating a quality DE course employing a mix-method (such as using Vista, wolfware, blogs and etc.)*

Participant Perception of an Increase in Skills/Abilities

Participants were also asked "to what extent did the Summer Institute increase your ability to do the following kinds of tasks related to getting a course completely online or partially online?" Clearly from their perspective, the institute increased their abilities in key areas "to some extent" or "very much so."

	Not At All	To Some Extent	Very Much So
The summer Institute increased my knowledge about research and literature related to teaching and learning with technology (23)	0	6	17
The Summer Institute increased my ability to envision how I can use technology to support my face-to-face class. (24)	0	2	22
The Summer Institute increased my ability to begin planning and scoping the transition of a traditional course to a hybrid course (23)	0	6	17
The Summer Institute increased my ability to begin planning and scoping the transition of a traditional course to an online course (24)	0	12	12
The Summer Institute increased my ability to use WebCT Vista to begin delivering materials online (24)	0	5	19
The Summer Institute increased my ability to envision how I can use technology to create a hybrid class. (24)	0	4	20
The Summer Institute increased my ability to identify and describe campus resources for the development and support of teaching and learning with technology. (24)	0	3	21
The Summer Institute increased my ability to envision media use beyond graphics and text-based web pages (24)	0	10	14

Increase In Skills and Abilities Due to the Summer Institute

	Reasearch & Literature	Support Face-to-Face	Transition to Hybrid	Transition to Online	Use WebCT	Envision Hybrid	Identify & Describe	Envision Multimedia
☐ To Some Extent	6	2	6	12	5	4	3	10
■ Very Much So	17	22	17	12	19	20	21	14

Skills & Abilities

Participant Perception of Benefits of the Summer Institute

Participants were also asked to rate to what extent the Summer Institute provided them with certain benefits that we hoped were met during the Summer Institute. From their perspective, the institute benefited them in these key areas, "to some extent" or "very much so" for the all of the questions asked.

	Not At All	To Some Extent	Very Much So
The Summer Institute gave me a sense of issues involved in creating technology-enhanced course materials. (25)	0	2	23
The Summer Institute gave me a sense of the resources available to help you create technology-enhanced course materials. (25)	0	2	23
The Summer Institute gave me the opportunity to meet other faculty members with similar interests. (24)	0	8	16
The Summer Institute gave me the confidence to begin developing technology-enhanced course materials. (24)	0	8	16
The Summer Institute gave me new knowledge and skills that will help me begin developing technology-enhanced course materials. (23)	0	7	16
The Summer Institute eased some of my concerns about teaching and learning with technology. (24)	0	8	16

Benefits of the Summer Institute

|	Issues Involved	Available Resources	Meet Faculty	Gave Confidence	New Knowledge & Skills	Eased Concerns
☐ To Some Extent	2	2	8	8	7	8
▨ Very Much So	23	23	16	16	16	16

Skills & Abilites
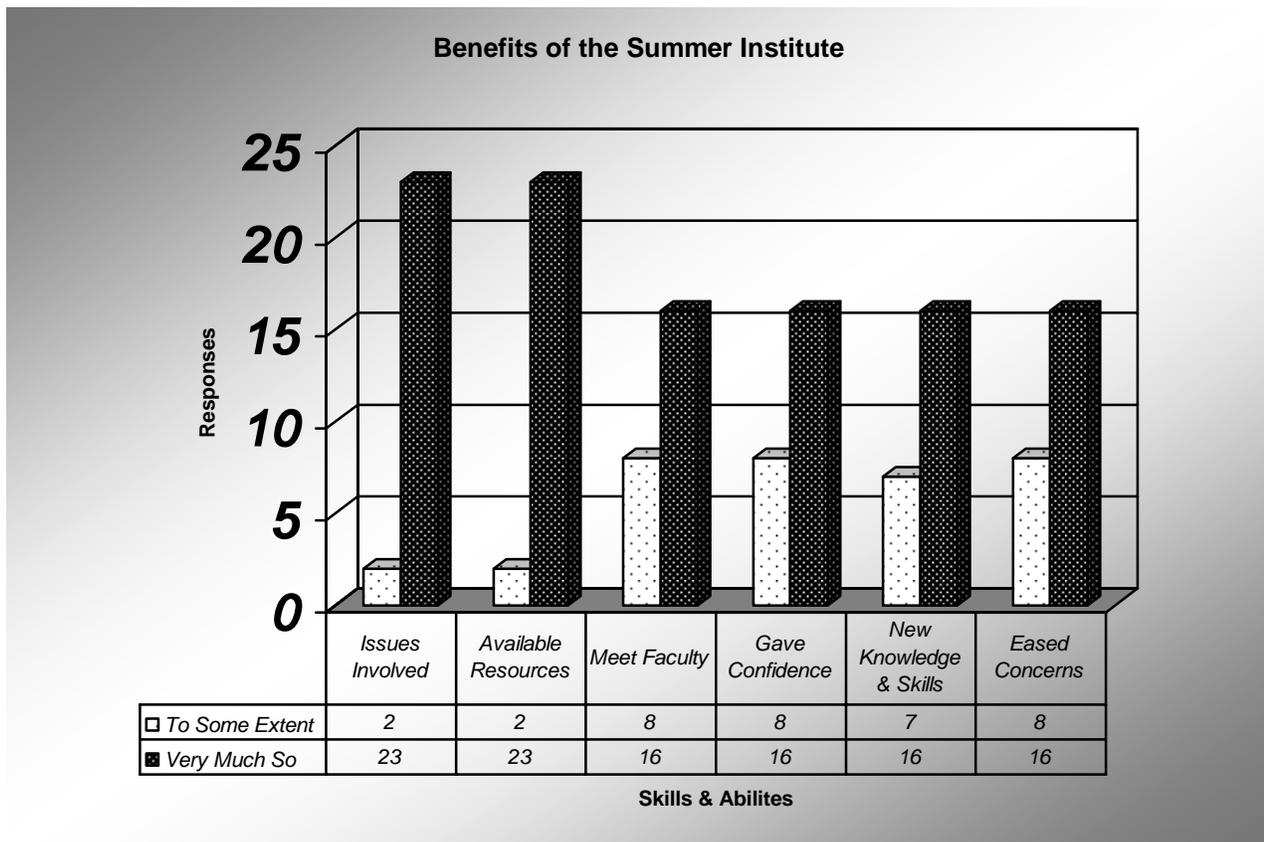
Current Plan for Technology Enhanced Course Development
(Post Summer Institute)

Participants were asked to describe their current plan for technology enhanced course development for after the Summer Institute. Of the 25 responses, participants plan to do the following:

(6)   I plan to use what I learn to create a **completely online/distance education course** in the next year.

(8)   I plan to use what I learn to create a "**hybrid**" course in the next year, with an increased reliance on the web that will result in fewer class meetings.

(9)   I plan to use what I learn to create and utilize **web-supplemented** instructional materials (such as a syllabus, class notes, discussion forum, etc.) to use in my face-to-face in the next year.

(2)   I 'm not sure what I might do at this point.

Post Summer Institute Course Development Plans

Legend:
- Distance Education Course
- Hybrid Course
- Web-Supplemented Instructional Materials
- Not Sure

(Pie chart values: 8%, 24%, 32%, 36%)
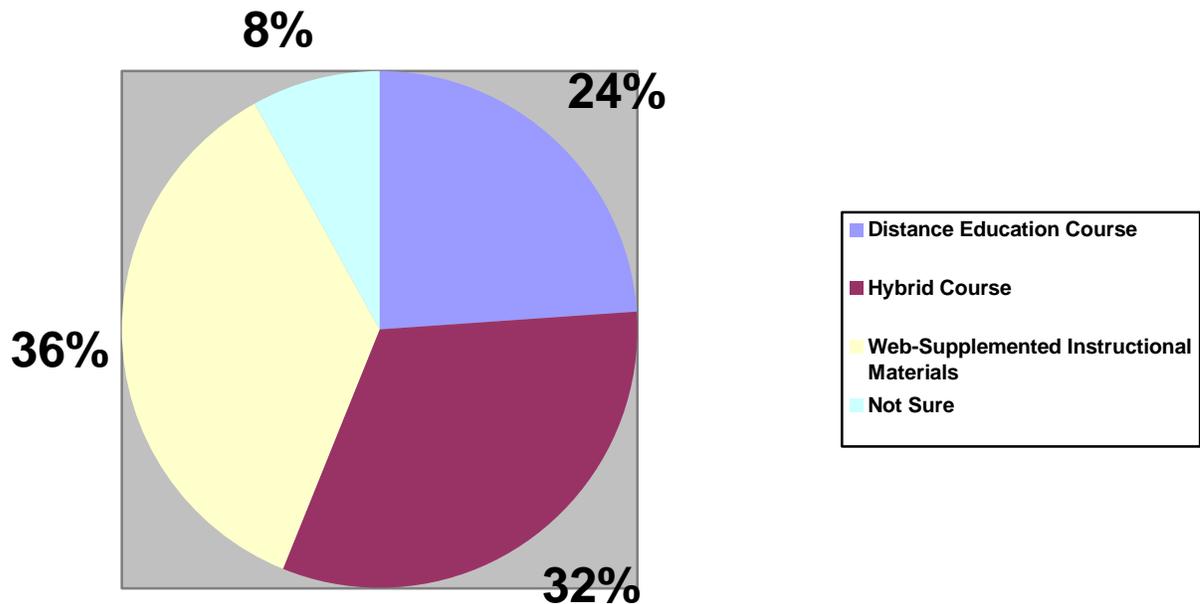
Staff Rating

Participants were also asked to provide feedback about the DELTA staff who participated in the Summer Institute, rating them on a Likert scale, on their professionalism, helpfulness, accessibility and their technical knowledge.

Staff Ratings

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Professionalism (25)	0	0	0	4	21
Helpfulness (25)	0	0	0	1	24
Accessibility (25)	0	0	0	3	22
Technical Knowledge (25)	0	0	0	3	22

Staff Rating
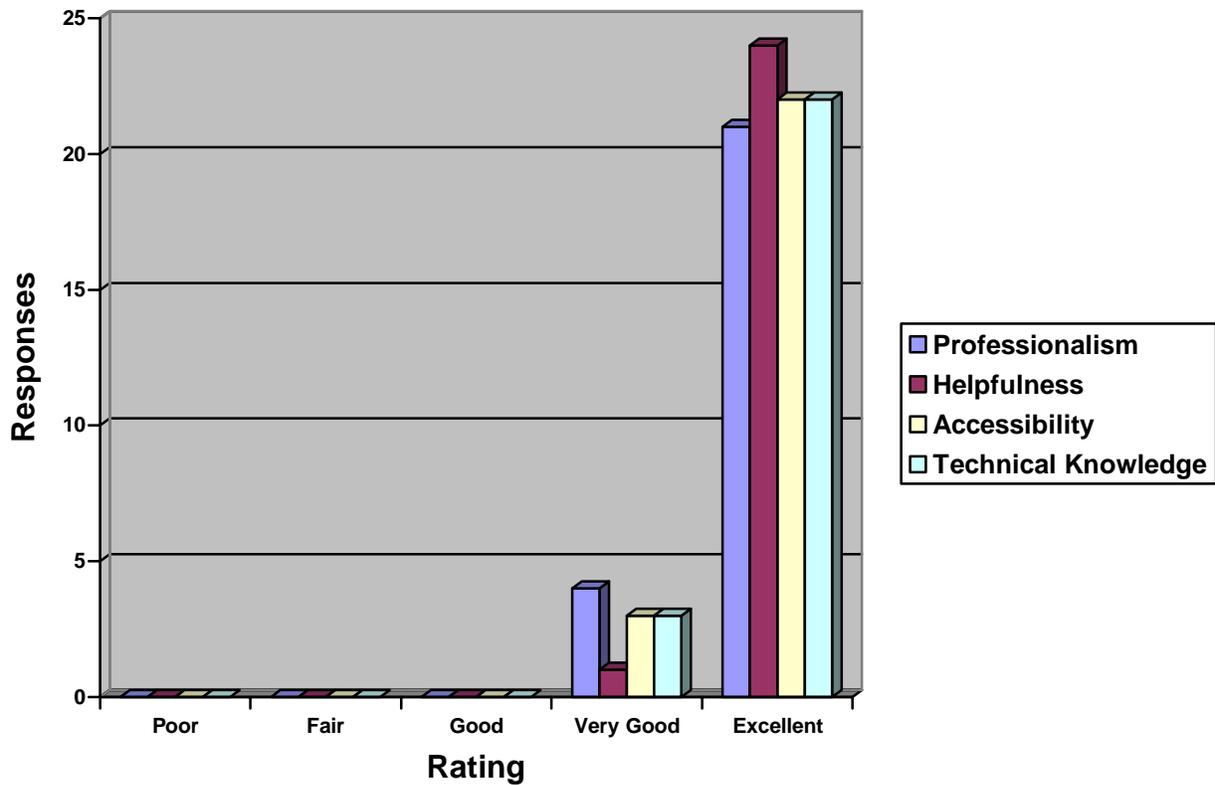
Additional Ideas for Training and Possible Topics that could be offered for Faculty in terms of Workshops, Seminars and Resources:

- *The use of more Elluminate sessions on all feasible topics- if faculty gets accustomed to using them, they should be more open to trying them in a class*
- *Online interactive learning modules for using each type of program in which one can proceed at one's own pace. Maybe these already exist?*
- *I would really like to see a week on just website development. As an extension specialist, I have web-based education needs that are beyond WebCT (i.e. the traditional academic online course).*
- *An "advanced SI" for 3-5 days either in the summer or possibly between semesters (but holidays may get in the way)*
- *More on multimedia and video- including how the heck to use it*
- *Demo of integrating Library resources into online course materials (i.e. hands-on workshop like the "Vista" workshops)*
- *At this point I don't need more training so much as more practice in using the information I've been introduced to*
- *I am not sure I have any new ideas at this time. I am looking forward to sitting down with my buddy in order to get my classes organized on Vista.*

Additional Overall Comments about Summer Institute:

- *A very professional and needed service!*
- *Thanks very much. You do a great job!*
- *I would like an electronic copy of the information on the vista site we visited every day. If we had that on our zip drives, we would know what we needed to add. For example, there were lots of references that I would like to have.*
- *Thank you so much. I really enjoyed it.*
- *Fantastic- I will highly recommend it, and look forward to attending again myself at some point! Thank you!!*
- *Well done!*
- *My thanks to all. This was an excellent use of my time. I will use what I've learned. The encouragement and examples of what current classes look like and use was very helpful. Best regards.*
- *I plan to certainly use this to enhance a face to face class; possibly work on a hybrid class, and absolutely to create a full online class.*
- *The summer institute was a wonderful opportunity. Participating in the summer institute helped to remove my blinders towards the capabilities of online education.*
- *I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and the experience. Thank you.*
- *Highly recommend this for everyone. The technology is here to stay so better get to know it before it's too late.*
- *Excellent!*
- *It was great. I will participate again in the future.*
- *Great experience- of course, I will likely attend again, and I am a bit concerned about the growing popularity of SI- will there be more slots in the future?*
- *Even though I was initially skeptical about the lunch time presentations, I am glad they were offered, as they not only allowed me to exchange ideas with other participants, but they also offered some valuable first- hand accounts of experiences in the minefield of online class development.*