<u>Final Survey Data Report</u>: Faculty + Staff Wants and Needs for a Learning Management System, *Westfield State University,* 4/1/2024

Key Metrics:

217 responses   **8:52** minutes on avg. to complete   Data from **1/9/- 3/14**

Key Takeaways:

- **Highly value the ability to copy course content from previous semesters**
- **Consistency in navigation across the the platform is key**
- **The functions that were most important for faculty were administering assignments, content, and grades**
- **Accessibility (ADA Compliance) is *very* important**

Largest Concerns

- **Migrating Courses Easily**
- **Easy-to-use (intuitive) platform for both students and faculty**

I. Introduction

A. *Background*

This survey aims to gather information regarding the wants and needs of faculty and staff for their future LMS; it explores different facets such as current engagement and desired features.

B. *Methodology*

The survey was conducted online through email, targeting the Westfield State university faculty and staff population. The survey was anonymous and received a total of **217 responses** over the course of 66 days.
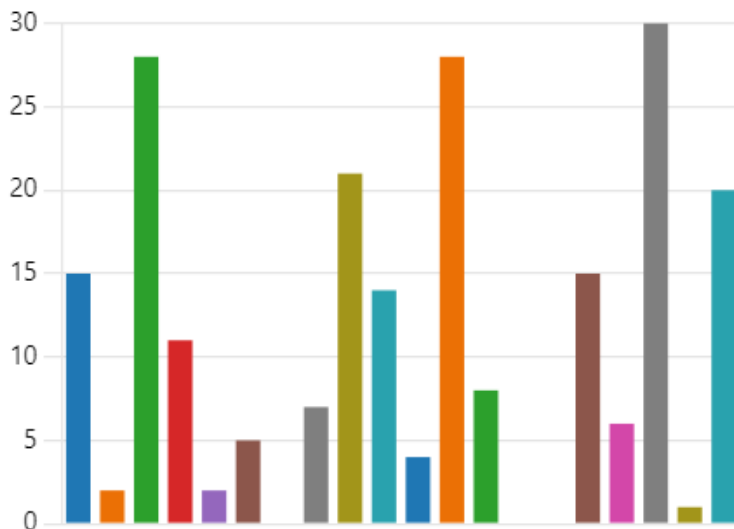
C. *Demographics*

The majority of respondents were **professors (53%)**, followed closely by **adjunct faculty members (35%)**.

🔵	Assistant/ Associate/ Full Profes...	116
🟠	Adjunct Faculty Member	75
🟢	Ancillary Academic Staff (incl. Le...	0
🔴	Staff member	18
🟣	Other	8

Faculty and staff from **16 different departments** responded, with the most responses from the three departments listed below.

● Psychology, Sociology, & Hispanic, Liberal and Interdisciplinary Studies, & Ethnic and Gender Studies

● Health Sciences, Nursing, Sports Medicine and Human Performance, & Social Work

● Biology, Chemical and Physical Sciences, & Environmental Science

Most respondents teach **undergraduate courses (72%)**.

● Undergraduate	156	
● Graduate	25	
● Non-credit courses	0	
● More than one level	19	
● I do not teach	17	

The majority of respondents have been in higher education for **11-20 years (40%)**.

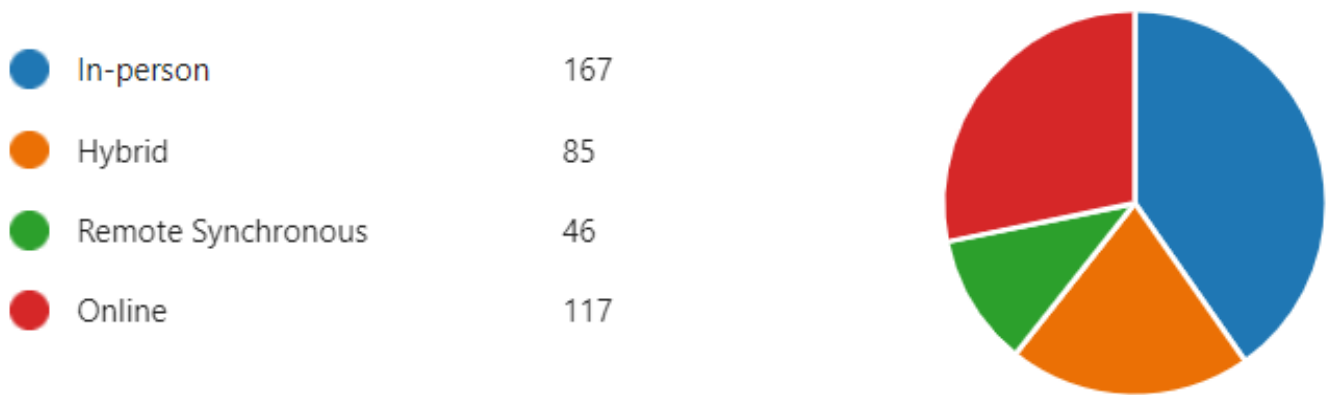|		
● Less than 1 year	7	
● 1-5 years	24	
● 6-10 years	40	
● 11-20 years	87	
● 21-30 years	47	
● More than 30 years	12	
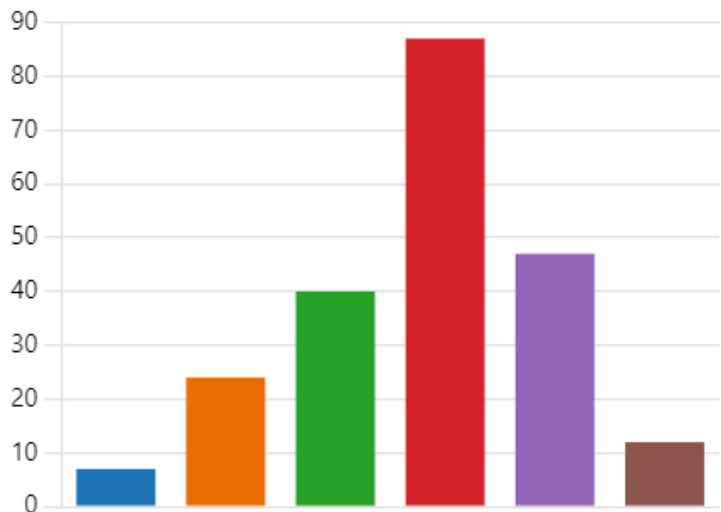
II. Survey Results
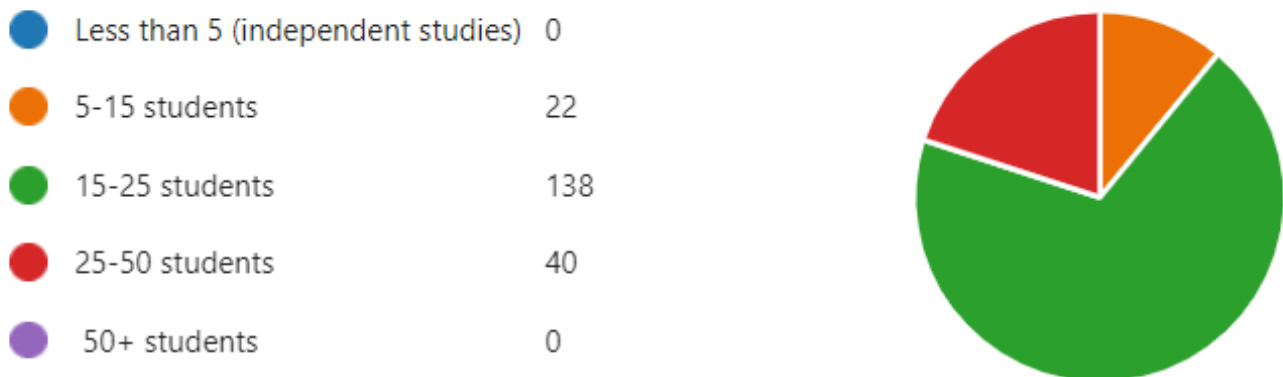
A. *Key Findings*

1. **Course Modality and Enrollment**

All four course modality are **well-represented**, with **in-person classes** coming out on top (76.96%).

🔵 In-person	167
🟠 Hybrid	85
🟢 Remote Synchronous	46
🔴 Online	117

The majority of courses have **15-25 students enrolled (63.6%).**

|	
🔵 Less than 5 (independent studies)	0
🟠 5-15 students	22
🟢 15-25 students	138
🔴 25-50 students	40
🟣 50+ students	0

2. Functions and Features

General LMS features that were considered important by faculty and staff were:

- **Easy to Navigate** (*81.1 % strongly agree*)

- **Straightforward Migration** (*74.2 % strongly agree*)
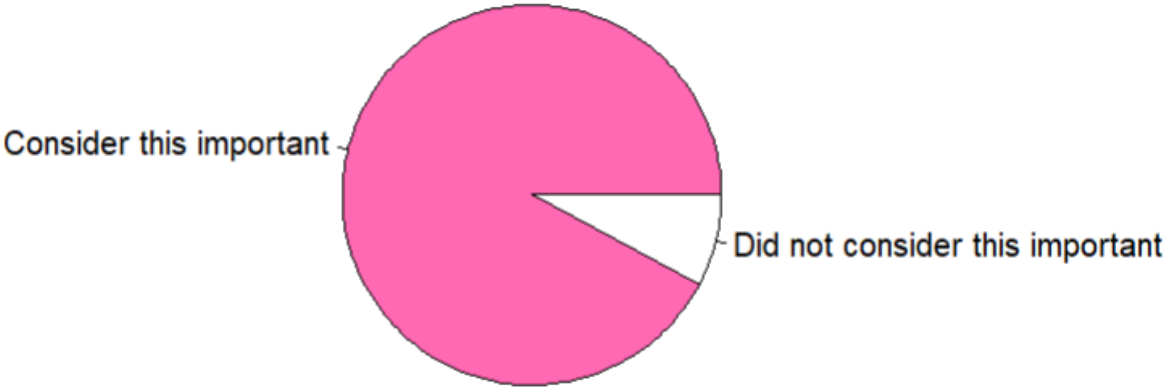
- **ADA compliance** (*52.5 % strongly agree*)

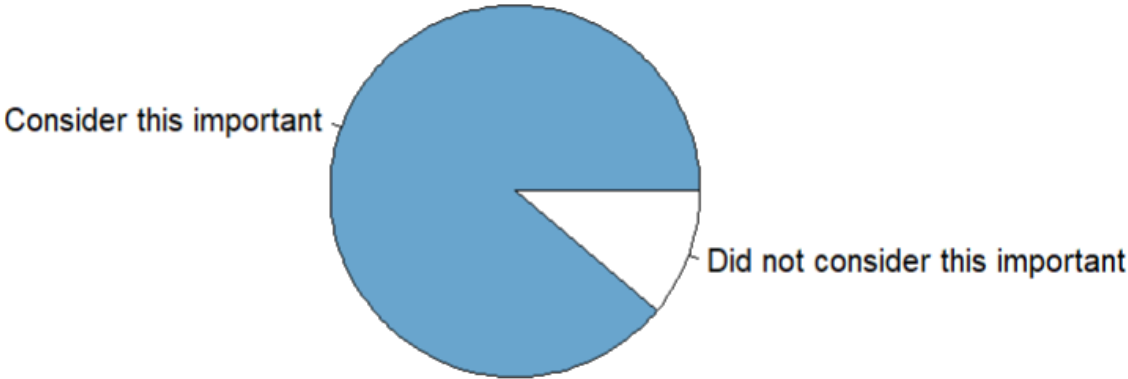## Top Features Important to Faculty and Staff
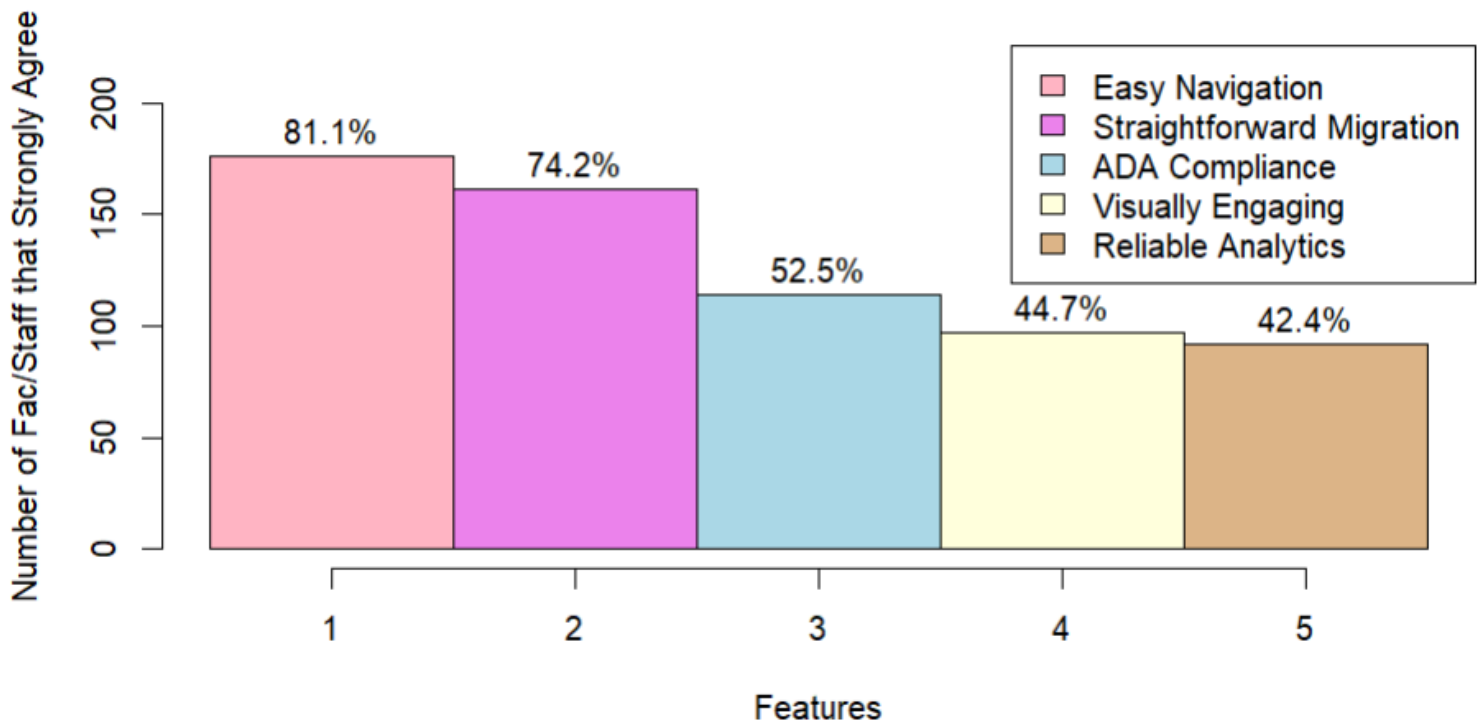
Most desired additional features for faculty and staff were:

- **Ability to copy course content** from a previous semester without excessive editing required (*92.6 % participants chose this*)

- **Easy-to-use platform** with **consistent navigation and experience** when creating assignments, quizzes, and discussion (*88.9 % participants chose this*)

Ability to Copy Course Content from the past without Excessive Editing
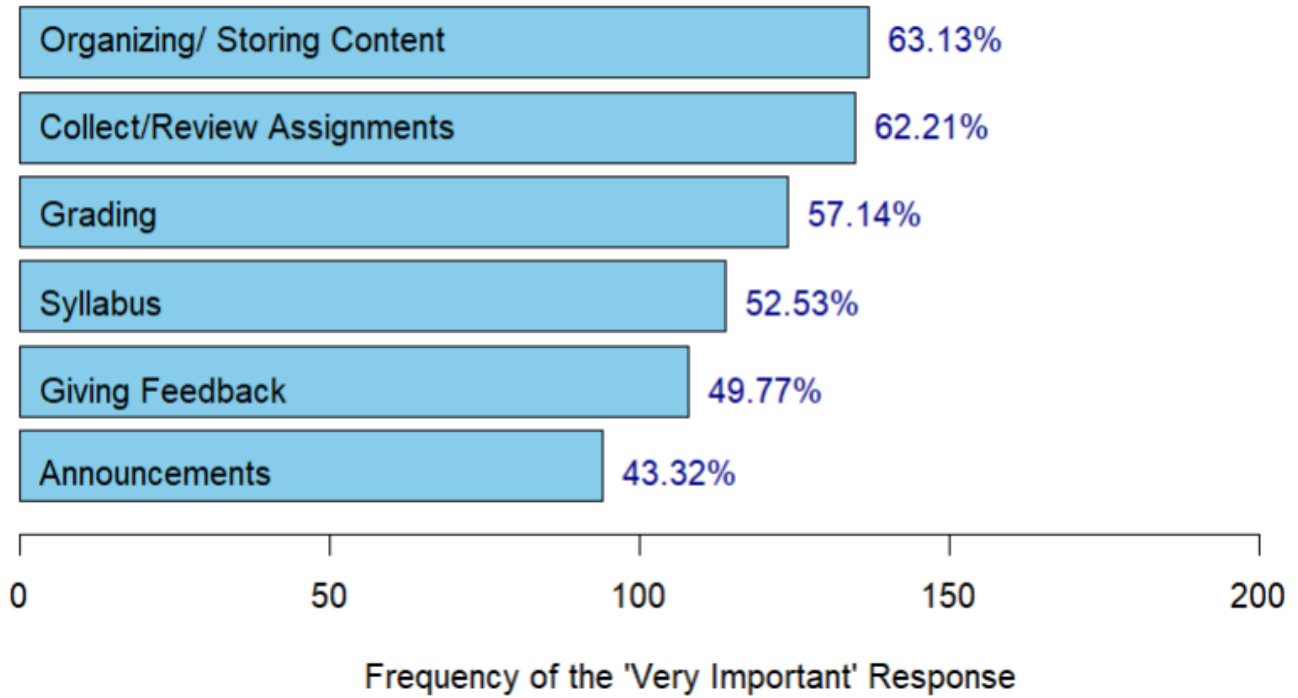
Consider this important
Did not consider this important

Consistent Navigation and Experience

Consider this important
Did not consider this important

The **specific functions** that were most important to faculty's teaching were:

What functions are most important to faculty and staff?

	Frequency
Organizing/ Storing Content	63.13%
Collect/Review Assignments	62.21%
Grading	57.14%
Syllabus	52.53%
Giving Feedback	49.77%
Announcements	43.32%

Frequency of the 'Very Important' Response

3. Engagement and Proficiency

Most faculty/staff **use Plato every day (65%)** or often

Never	6
Rarely	11
Sometimes	5
Often	54
Every Day	141

The majority of faculty/staff have been using an LMS for **10 years or more (53%)**.

🔵 1-2 years	15
🟠 3-5 years	28
🟢 5-10 years	59
🔴 More than 10 years	115

Most faculty/ staff describe using an LMS, such as Plato, in their teaching approach **to a great extent (56.7%).**

🔵 To a limited extent (only course ...	4
🟠 To a basic extent (course outline...	6
🟢 To a moderate extent (I use extr...	37
🔴 To a great extent (it's a true com...	123
🟣 To a very great extent (I teach al...	30

The majority of faculty/ staff describe themselves as **advanced at using an LMS (44%)**, such as Plato, followed closely by **intermediate (42%)**.

🔵 Complete Novice	3	
🟠 Novice	10	
🟢 Intermediate	91	
🔴 Advanced	96	
🟣 Power User	17	

Similarly, most faculty/staff describe their **overall expertise with digital technologies as intermediate (48%)**.

🔵 Complete Novice	0	
🟠 Novice	8	
🟢 Intermediate	104	
🔴 Advanced	87	
🟣 Power User	18	

4. Defining an LMS

Most respondents agree that the **primary function of an LMS** is:

- As one part of a teaching and learning ecosystem that connects students, instructors, and technologies in one space that is easily expandable as needed (41%)

5. Additional Feedback and Highlights

Parsing through the other comments, the major themes for a future LMS for faculty and staff were:

- Concerns about migration
- Students being able to easily submit assignments
- Having a user-friendly platform

6. Takeaways

The gathered data highlights the importance of being able to easily duplicate course content from previous semesters (migration) for faculty and staff, as well as emphasizes the value of consistent and intuitive navigation throughout the platform for both students and faculty. Additionally accessibility, or ADA compliance, was highlighted as a very important aspect to consider. The survey demonstrates that faculty and staff consider the primary focus of a Learning Management System to be for administering assignments, managing content, and handling grades, so when considering future LMSs, it's important to examine those features specifically and how they operate. Lastly, the largest concern for faculty and staff is seamless migration of courses and an easy-to-use platform.