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Ready or Not, Here It Comes!: Distance Learning and Online Teaching

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**Ready or Not, Here It Comes!**

**Distance Learning and Online Teaching**

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**Introduction**

With increasing interest and pressure on university faculty to augment course offerings to meet student learning needs with online sections, a faculty learning community at Augusta State University set out to examine faculty concerns and readiness for teaching online.

**Literature Review**

- **Motivators for Teaching Online**
  - Flexible schedules
  - Addressing student needs/providing access/more options
  - To be innovative/creative
  - More personal interaction

- **Barriers to Teaching Online**
  - Lack of visual/direct connection with students
  - Compensation issues
  - Increased workload
  - Greater time not recognized by administration
  - Lack of training and technical support
  - Concerns about quality
  - How will be evaluated/supported by peers

**Objectives**

- We present data gathered from a survey of a broad range of faculty at our university including adjunct faculty, lecturers, and untenured and tenured faculty.
- We examine the relationship between faculty experiences, concerns, attitudes and self-perceived preparedness and willingness to teach online.

**Methods**

- **Online survey distributed through university e-mail via third party**
  - Survey included items about teaching status, experiences with and interest in teaching online
  - Full-time and part-time faculty included
  - 121 respondents (approximately 27% response rate)
  - Response window of 2.5 weeks with a prompt sent near end of 2nd week
  - Opportunity to receive incentive included
  - IRB approval received
  - Informed consent implied by clicking through survey link
- **Data analysis**:
  - Cross-tabulations
  - t-tests
  - analysis of variance using SPSS

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**Data**

**Motivational Factors**

- **Flexibility of Delivery**
- **Opportunity for Innovation**
- **Personal Interest**
- **Meeting Student Interest**
- **Financial Stipend**
- **Meeting Student Needs**
- **Reassigned Time**

**Concern Factors**

- **Not Meeting Learning Outcomes**
- **Questionable Course Quality**

**Motivations**

- Both faculty members who are willing to teach an online course and faculty currently teaching an online course are more motivated by:
  - Flexibility in delivery
  - Personal interest
  - Financial stipend
  - Reassigned time
  - Opportunity for innovation
  - Meeting student interest
  - Meeting student need

**Results Summary**

**References**


**Researchers**

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Augusta State University combined with Georgia Health Sciences University to create Georgia Regents University in January 2013.