

coursework administration and student support made it easier to implement the training required for EMA.

Methodology

The study undertook a review of current literature (Ferrell 2014) that indicated a more

Staff were surveyed re their experiences with online marking and further support requirements.

Staff surveyed re their experiences noted that “students like online feedback”; “having stuff ready to mark in one place was good”; “it took time to build a bank of quick comments but when that was done, marking was relatively straightforward”; “it was easier to ensure students definitely receive the feedback in an auditable fashion as opposed to relying on students collecting hardcopy feedback”; “Online tests worked well for the large cohorts with instant feedback”. “Easier for students to understand feedback as they don’t have to decipher my handwriting. It was easier for me to keep track of what I have done and what I still needed to do”.

Representative problems staff reported were “Difficult trying to enter grades in the Grade Centre”; “Some uploading problems for students”; Having to move around a few windows and pages to mark student work”; “The main frustration is that the grade centre and student information system don’t talk to each other – this wastes time and increases the risk of grade entry error”. I am often trying to mark offline, during my long train commute (when the wi-fi drops out regularly). This should be valuable work time but I can no longer use it for marking since moving to electronic submissions – I do not have an iPad”; “I have only 1 screen at work, it can be really small and tiresome for the eyes”.

We have held roadshows to demonstrate the best hardware/software options available to staff, including workstation setup advice when using mobile devices while carrying out electronic management of assessment. The options included a pc with 2 screens; a laptop with additional screen and an iPad with Turnitin app.

We have investigated the possibility of linking the Blackboard grade centre to our Student Information System (SITS Tribal). There is a choice of interface on Blackboard, using Building Blocks or Web Services and XML flat files. SITS Tribal requires Person & Course data exchange (IC301), Grades/Marks exchange (IC302) and the Stu Talk Suite.

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Conclusions and Recommendations

At present Abertay uses Blackboard and Turnitin assignments to submit coursework online. This is because each type of assignment has strengths and weaknesses, main points listed below. There may never be a one fits all solution but we will welcome the use of non-

References

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