

Subject: Audience Response Systems (i.e., clickers) Standardization Policy for the University of Utah

Dear Deans, Chairs, Directors, Departmental Contacts and Faculty,

This communication announces the standardization policy for faculty use of Audience Response Systems (clickers) at the University of Utah.

The Approved Vendor:

Turning Technologies LLC (a.k.a. TurningPoint) has been selected as the approved clicker vendor for the University of Utah. TurningPoint devices offer both short and long-term benefits that best suit the mission of the University of Utah to provide a quality education to its students. TurningPoint also best addressed the primary concerns of all the principal stakeholders. For details regarding the background on the issue, the policy details, the approved vendor and primary reasons for selection, recommended tasks for faculty and department administrators, and resources, please visit <http://ims.utah.edu/clicker> and read University of Utah Audience Response System (clicker) Standardization Policy.

Fall 2009 Semester Orders through the Bookstore & Alternatives:

TurningPoint clickers should be ordered from this point forward. To ensure timely receipt of clickers at the bookstore, please submit your requests for Fall 2009 to the Bookstore by **June 15, 2009**. For Spring 2010 onward, please submit TurningPoint clicker orders with your textbook order.

Instructors that wish to order clicker devices or kits directly from Turning Technologies please contact the Account Executive for University of Utah, Michael Muntean, at mmuntean@turningtechnologies.com.

Next Steps:

Go to <http://ims.utah.edu/clicker> and read Recommended Actions and Resources for recommended steps for faculty, a list of resources, and TurningPoint clicker costs and features.

Questions:

For questions regarding the policy please send an e-mail to clickers@lists.utah.edu. For questions on the general use of clickers, training opportunities, etc., please send an e-mail to info@ctle.utah.edu.

The Policy Summary:

- 1) One clicker vendor will become the approved vendor for the University of Utah. The University and the approved vendor will provide support for the approved vendor's clicker devices. Primary support units include the approved vendor (for technical set-up, clicker/receiver problems, and ongoing questions), the bookstore (for ordering and buy back), TACC (for Blackboard Vista integration), and CTLE (for teaching best practices). Local IT departments may support special department needs. This policy item addresses the goal to minimize University administrative costs, and to minimize student and faculty costs as well as training time.
- 2) Faculty and/or departments electing to adopt alternative clicker devices will be asked to provide them at no additional cost to registered students. Faculty will provide all registered students with the alternative device by covering the cost through other funding sources (e.g., faculty or department budgets). This policy item addresses the goal to minimize student costs by eliminating the purchase of multiple clickers by a student.

- 3) The bookstore will supply clickers and offer a buyback policy for TurningPoint devices in good operating condition. Clickers for the student will cost approximately \$55. One clicker can be used for multiple classes. This policy item addresses the goal to minimize student costs.
- 4) Faculty will need receivers to gather data from the clickers during class instruction. Receivers can be connected to laptops or other built in systems. For every 100 clickers purchased the faculty and/or department will receive one receiver free to be picked up at Instructional Media Services (IMS). For orders less than 100 that includes a commitment to four semesters of use, contact the bookstore to arrange for a free receiver. For orders less than 100 and less than four semesters of continued use, faculty and/or departments will need to contact our Turning Technologies representative, Michael Muntean, to find out ways to obtain free receivers or to purchase the receivers at a cost of \$99. This policy item addresses the goal to minimize faculty and department costs.
- 5) Training, including technical set-up and teaching best practices, will be available. You can register for free, online training with a Turning Technologies' Trainer at: (<http://www.turningtechnologies.com/audienceresponsecommunity/onlinetraining.cfm>). In person, classroom training will be available at pre-set times in August and December 2009 and thereafter will be available on an as needed basis. Register at <http://registration.ctle.utah.edu/>. This policy item addresses the goal to provide ongoing training support to faculty.
- 6) Clicker demonstration "checkout sets" (up to a maximum of 100) can be borrowed for one-time usage or to test your need for clickers in the classroom. Checkouts sets for lower campus are located at Instructional Media Services (IMS). Please contact IMS at 581-3170 or 581-6112. Checkouts sets for upper campus are located at Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library (Eccles Library). Please contact Julie Quilter at julie.quilter@utah.edu.

The Audience Response Advisory Group would like to take this opportunity to thank the wide variety of faculty, student and administrative personnel that participated in and informed this recommendation. Through their efforts, insightful questions, and thoughtful input we believe that the University of Utah's mission of quality education can be enhanced through this clicker standardization policy.

Sincerely,

Audience Response System Advisory Group
University of Utah

Sponsored and approved by

John Francis, Senior Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies and
Steve Hess, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology