

Assessment: Are We Getting It Right?



2009 ANNUAL LEARNING AND TEACHING STAFF CONFERENCE

DELEGATE FEEDBACK ANALYSIS

(Taken from completed questionnaire returns)

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A Review

University of Bolton

Annual Learning and Teaching Staff Conference, Thursday 2 July 2009

'Assessment Are We Getting It Right?'

One delegate wrote: "Assessment, as we have learnt is the best thing we give to students in their learning and this was aptly captured in this Conference."



Professor Brenda Smith, Higher Education Academy

247 delegates attended the University of Bolton's seventh Annual Learning and Teaching Staff Conference held on Thursday 2 July 2009, at the Deane Campus. This year the Conference was organised around a key theme: **Assessment and Feedback**

We were very pleased to have a number of keynote speakers:

Professor Brenda Smith, Higher Education Academy: 'Assessment for Learning: Why Did I Get 37%'

Graham Holden and Nicky Harris, Sheffield Hallam University: 'How Do You Use Yours? The Feedback for Learning Campaign at Sheffield Hallam University'

Dr George Holmes, Vice Chancellor University of Bolton: 'Assessing: A first – Is It Enough?'

Aaron Porter, National Union of Students: 'Student View on Assessment & Feedback'

Berry O'Donovan, ASKe CETL, Oxford Brookes University: 'Enhancing Assessment and Feedback in Large Classes'

Throughout the day we held Conference Learning and Teaching Workshops led by academics from across the University and the Higher Education sector on topics including:

- **Wimba Collaboration Suite: So Much More Than a Virtual Classroom.** Gary Burns/Jeremy Bradley
- **Widening Participation, Narrowing Retention: An Appraisal of a Small Selection of University of Bolton Pedagogical Approaches Enhancing the Student Experience.** David Kitchener
- **Using Simulation as an Assessment and Feedback Tool: Getting It Right in Real Life.** Chris Mulryan
- **Do Your Assessment Strategies Support the Development of Employability Skills in Your Students?** Cassandra O'Connor
- **On a Scale of 1 to 9: Assessing the English-Language Competence of International Students.** Elisabeth Planella/Alan Entwistle
- **Show & Tell for the Point and Click Generation: The Benefits of Multimedia Assessment of Undergraduate Knowledge.** Debbie Abdel Nabi/Paul Rogers
- **Students, What Are They Really Saying? And Who's Listening?** Kay Loxham/Sloane Stewart/Debra Elliott/James Gaskell/
Jacquie Parkinson Jones/Ruth Coward
- **Inclusive or Alternative? Assessment of Disabled Students.** Tina Elliott
- **Revealing your Understanding: Challenges and Opportunities for Teaching, Learning and Communicating in a Global, Technology-Rich World.** Mark Johnson/Zubair Hanslot/Ged Clarke
- **Information Literacy: Do You Know What Your Students Need to Know?** Shirley Ward/Dawn Grundy

- **Xerte from Nottingham University's Learning Team: Free Browser-based Tools Supporting Lecturers Who Want to Develop Their Own Content and Assessments.** Roy Attwood/Julian Tenney/Patrick Lockley



The Conference is an excellent opportunity to network and meet others from across the University and Higher Education Sector.

The Conference is a celebration of the end of the Academic year and a social occasion. At lunchtime we served an 'Eastern Promise and Fortune Cookie' buffet and as a finale to the Conference a celebratory 'Oriental Crackers' reception with music from the Bolton Youth Orchestra String Quartet and Karaoke.

93% of the delegates who completed the Conference Feedback Questionnaire rate the Conference overall as 'Excellent/Very Good'.



The Conference delegates commented on the Conference in the 'feedback questionnaire':

- “Once again, a FABULOUS conference. ALL very interesting and engaging. VERY SLICK organisation!”
- “. . . it was all delivered very professionally and was exceptionally well organised and orchestrated.”
- “Assessment theme very pertinent and excellent presentations!”
- “Very well organised and implemented. Enjoyed the speakers – interesting food for thought and the workshop will inform/enhance our student experience.”
- “I learned some useful things and have noted down some actions I will be taking as a consequence of what I have learned.”
- “Enjoyed the day as a whole. Well organised, excellent food and refreshments. Found the workshop (I attended) very interesting. Looking forward to 2010.”

For your information please find enclosed the Annual Learning and Teaching Staff Conference 2009 feedback analysis gained from the Conference Evaluation Questionnaires.

Sue Burkinshaw – Conference Lead
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Next Year's Annual Learning and Teaching Staff Conference at the University of Bolton

Will be held on Thursday 8 July 2010

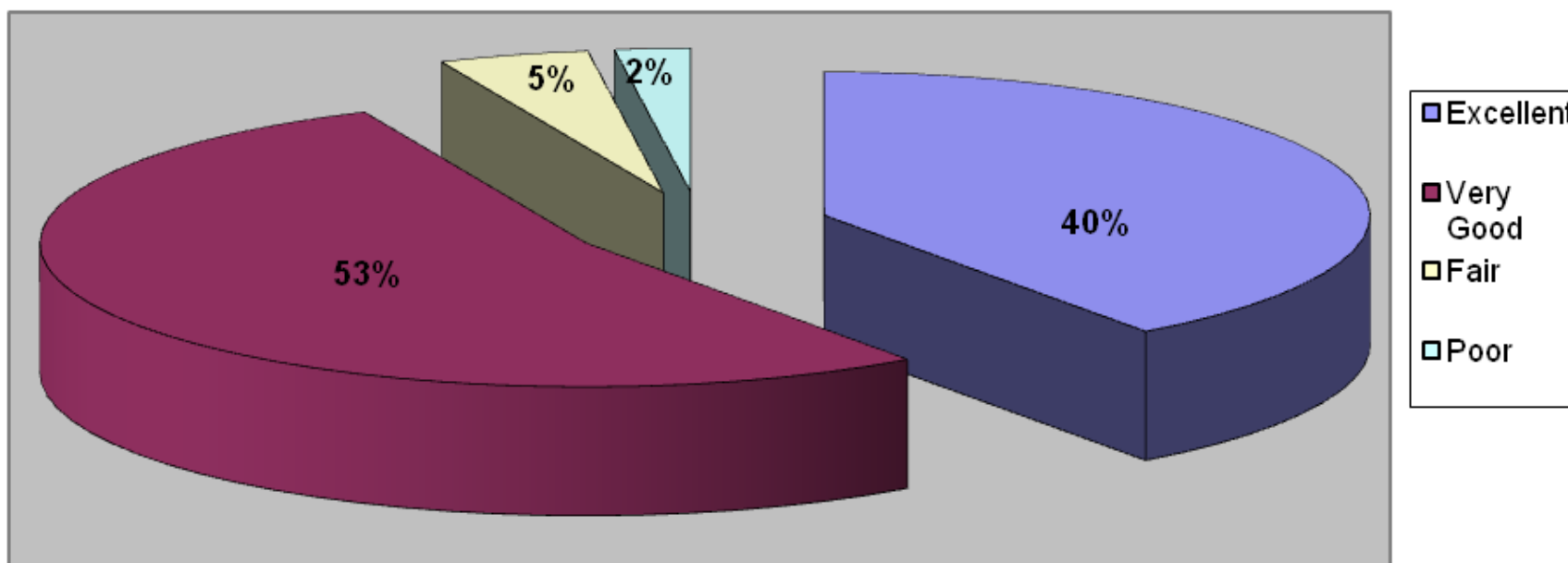
9.00 – 5.00pm

University of Bolton, Deane Campus

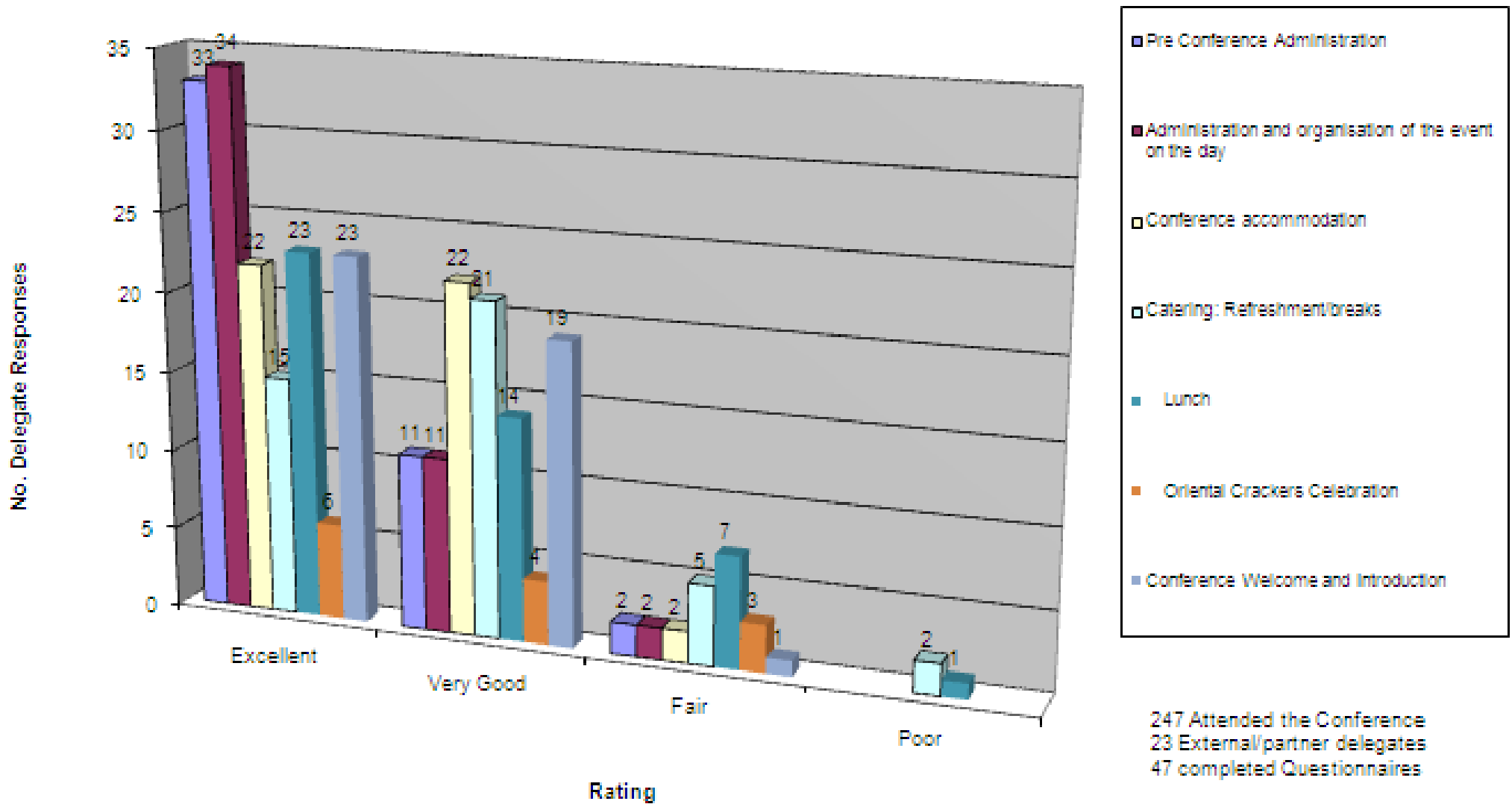
So please come and join us next year - you are most welcome. Look out for Conference updates on the Educational Development Unit web pages: <http://www.bolton.ac.uk/EDU/AnnualLearningandTeachingStaffConference/Home.aspx>. If you would like further information please contact Denise Mercer, Educational Development Unit Administrator (d.mercer@bolton.ac.uk).

Annual Learning and Teaching Staff Conference 2009 Delegate Questionnaire Feedback - Overall Opinion of Event

247 Attended the Conference
23 External/partner delegates

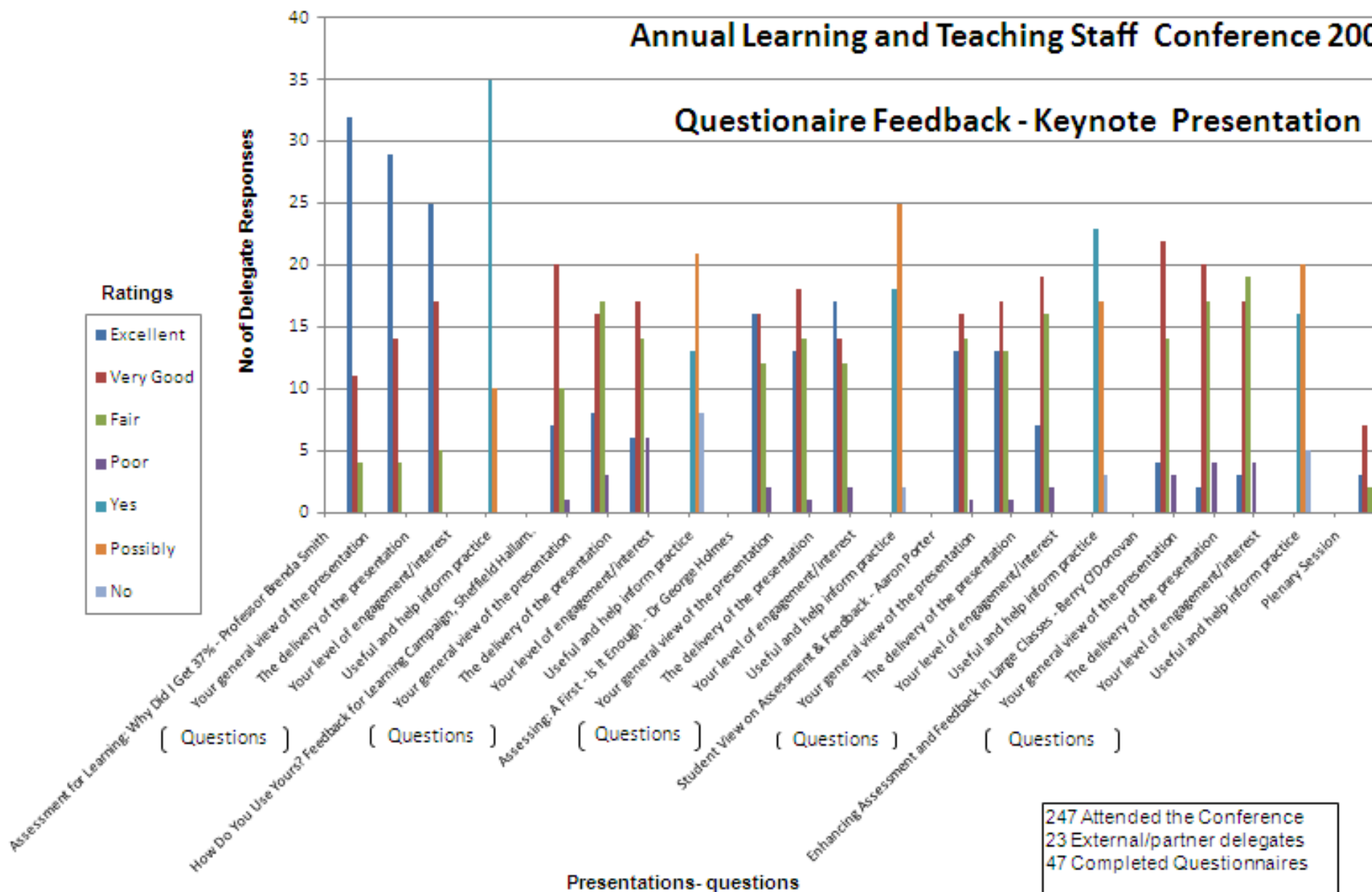


Annual Learning and Teaching Staff Conference 2009 Questionnaire Feedback



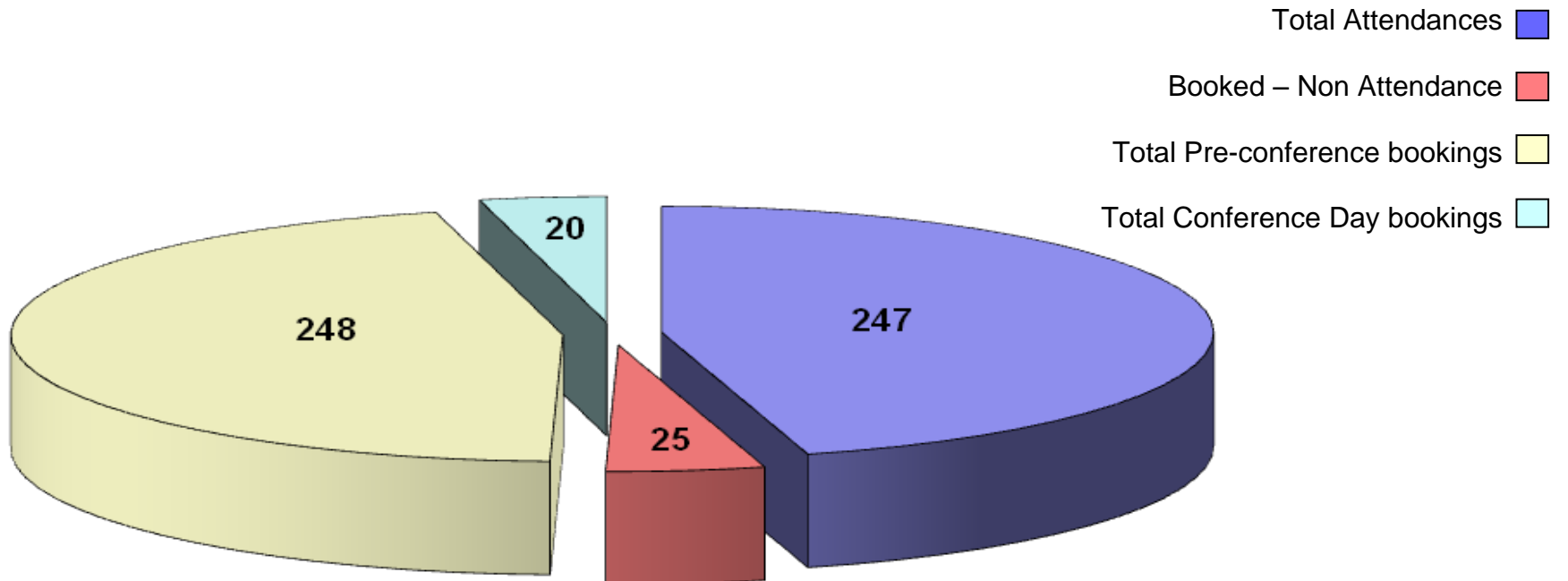
Annual Learning and Teaching Staff Conference 2009

Questionnaire Feedback - Keynote Presentation

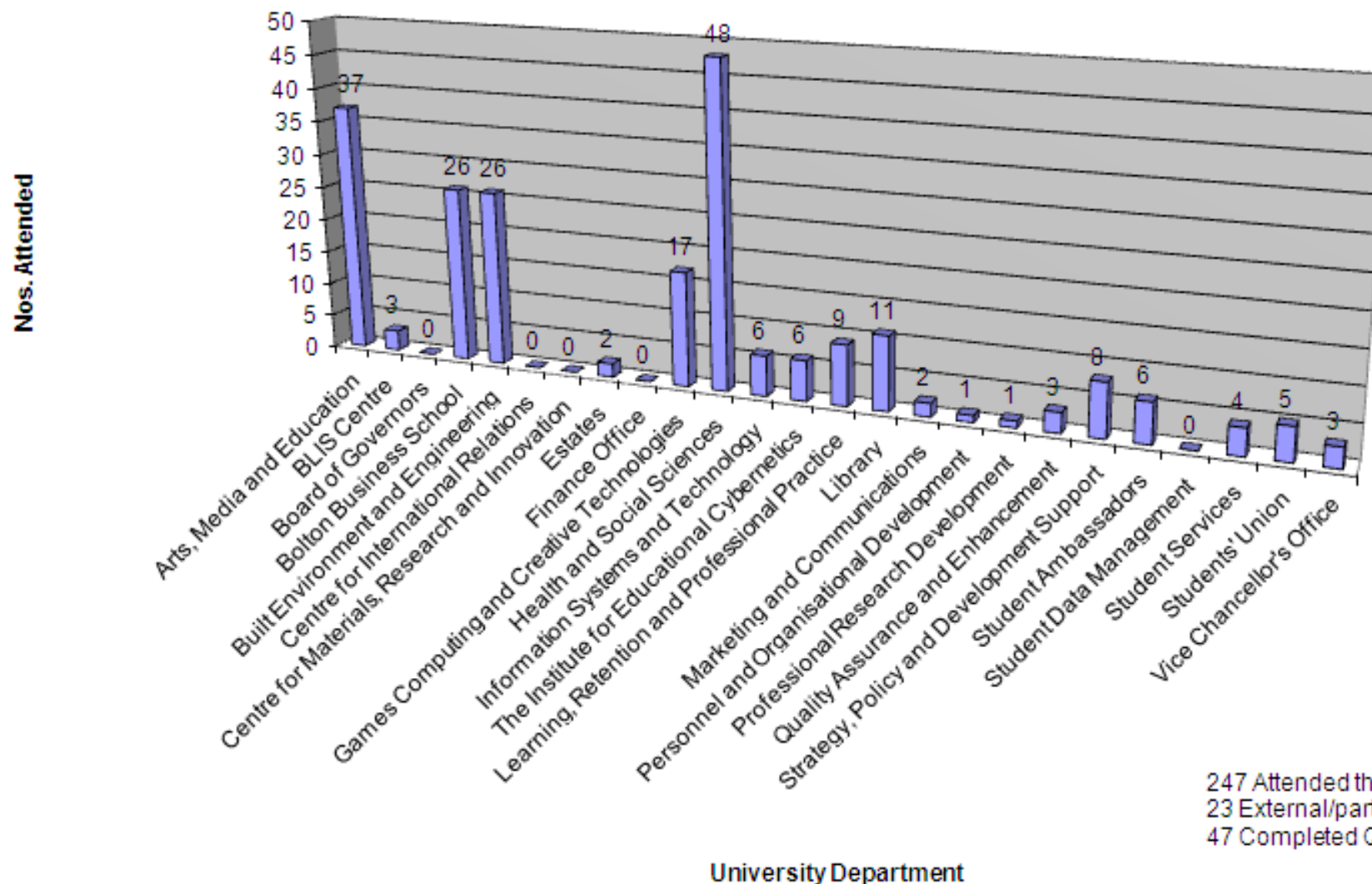


L&T Conference 2009 - Overall Attendance

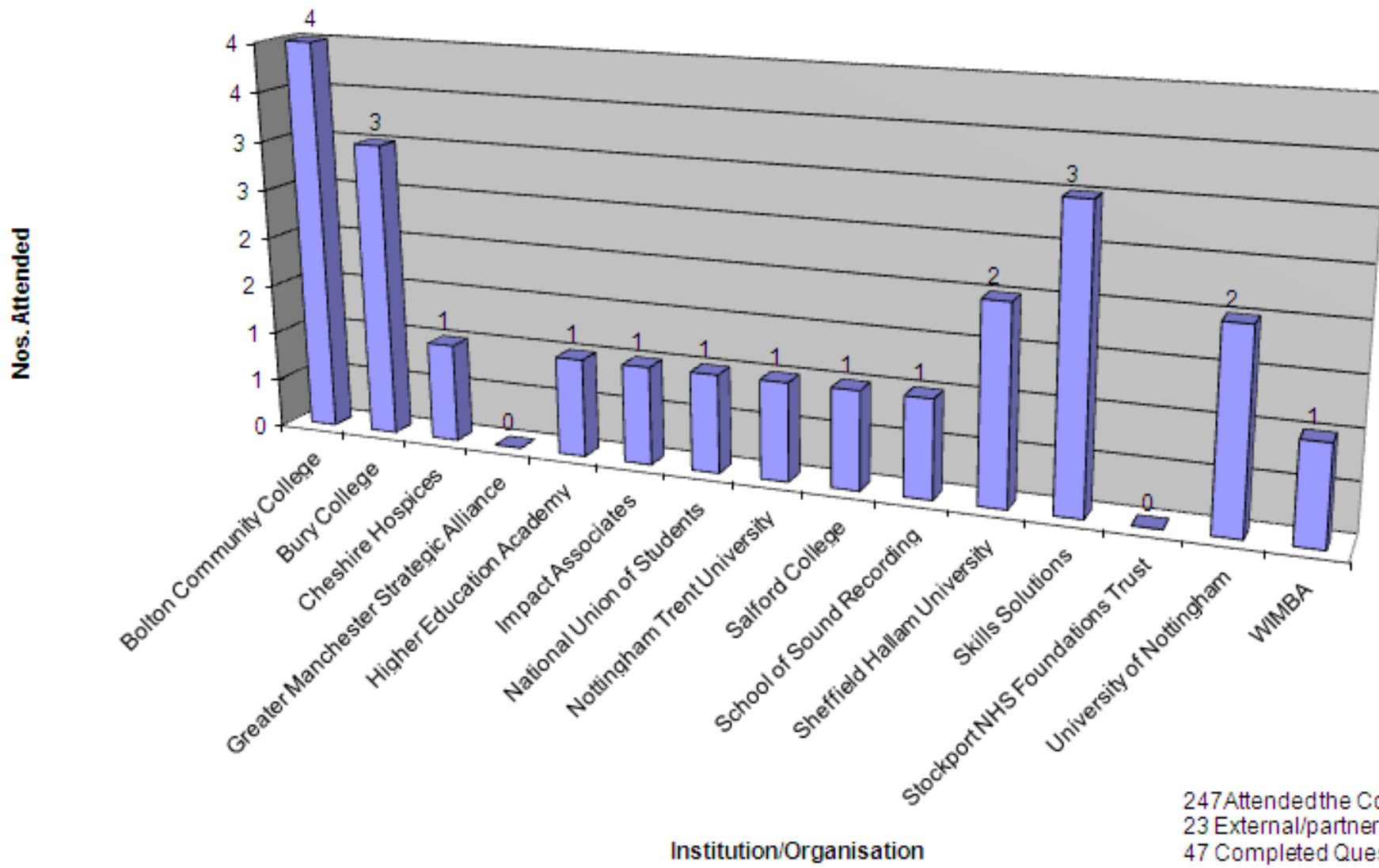
247 Attended the Conference
23 External/partner delegates



Annual Learning and Teaching Staff Conference 2009 Attendance - University Departments Represented



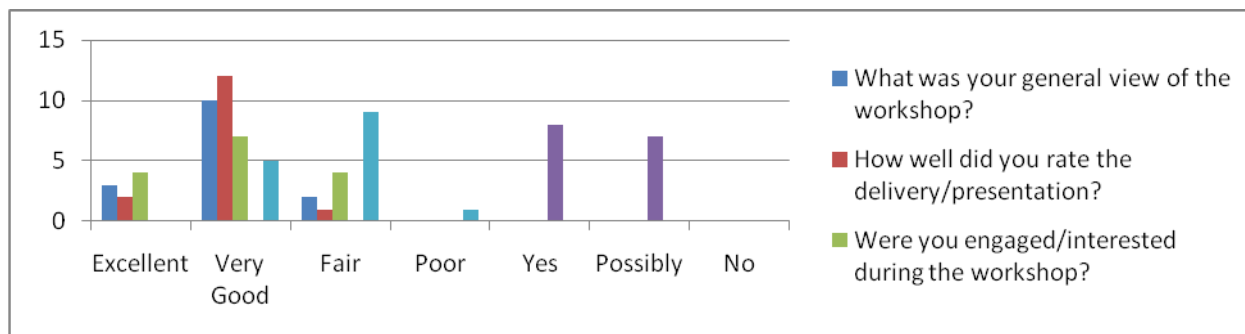
**Annual Learning and Teaching Staff Conference 2009
Attendance - External Institutions/Organisations Represented**



247 Attended the Conference
23 External/partner delegates
47 Completed Questionnaires

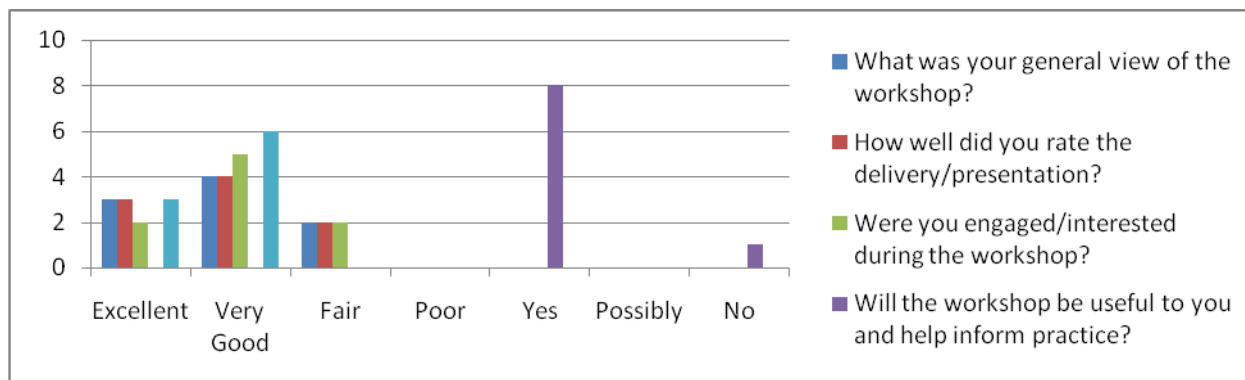
CONFERENCE LEARNING AND TEACHING WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1: Wimba Collaboration Suite: So Much More Than a Virtual Classroom. Presenters: Gary Burns, Information Systems & Technology/Jeremy Bradley, Wimba

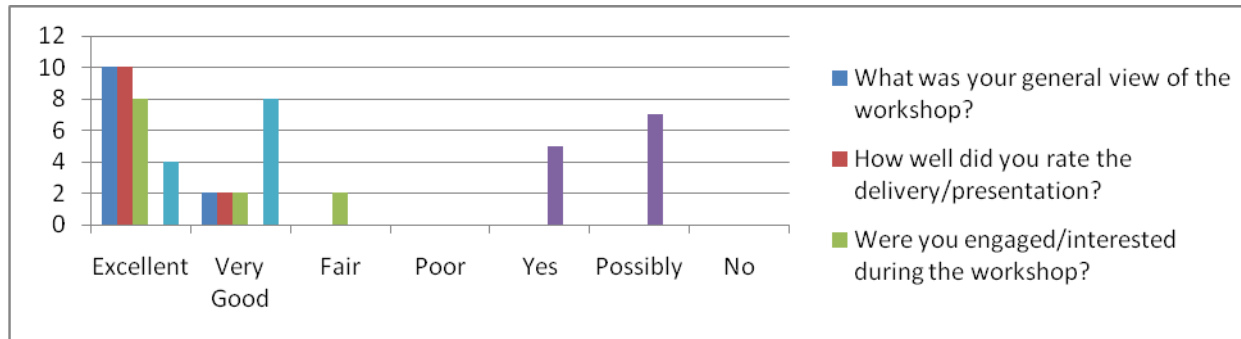


Workshop 2: Widening Participation, Narrowing Retention: An Appraisal of a Small Selection of University of Bolton Pedagogical Approaches Enhancing the Student Experience

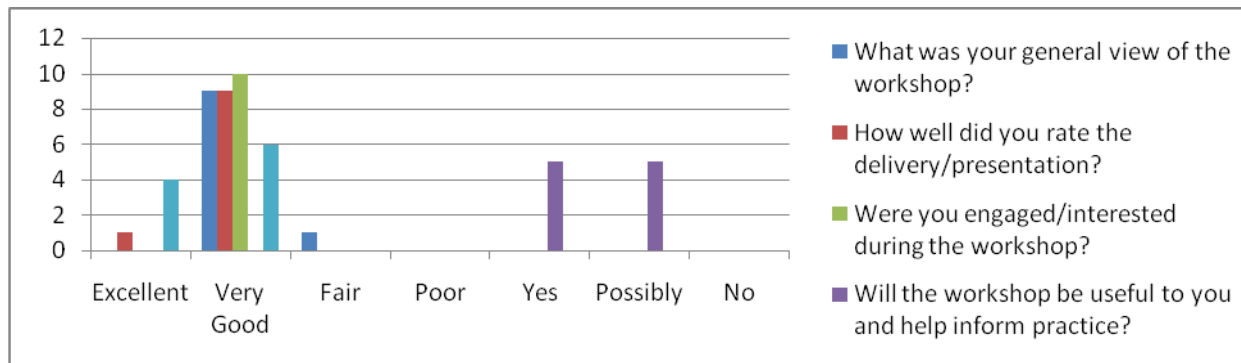
Presenter: David Kitchener, Arts Media and Education, University Learning & Teaching Fellow



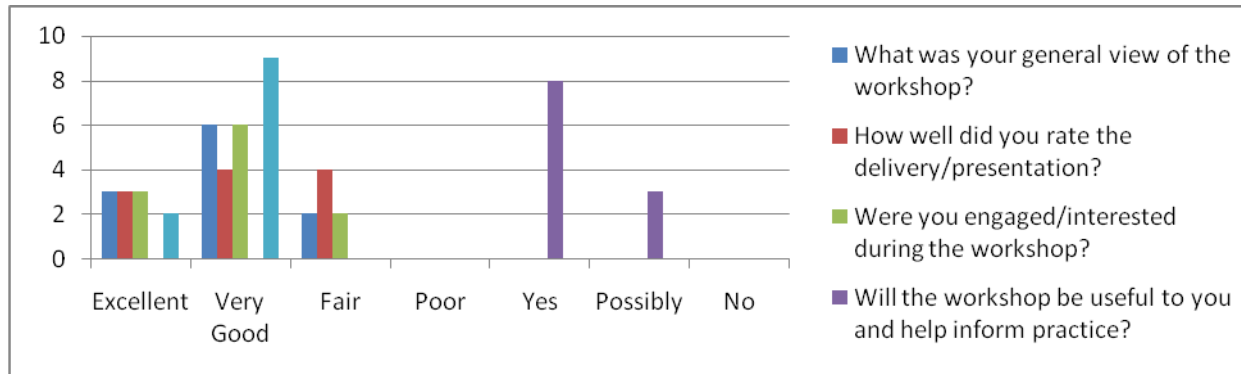
Workshop 3: Using Simulation as an Assessment and Feedback Tool: Getting it Right in Real Life
Presenter: Chris Mulryan, Health & Social Sciences, University Learning & Teaching Sabbatical



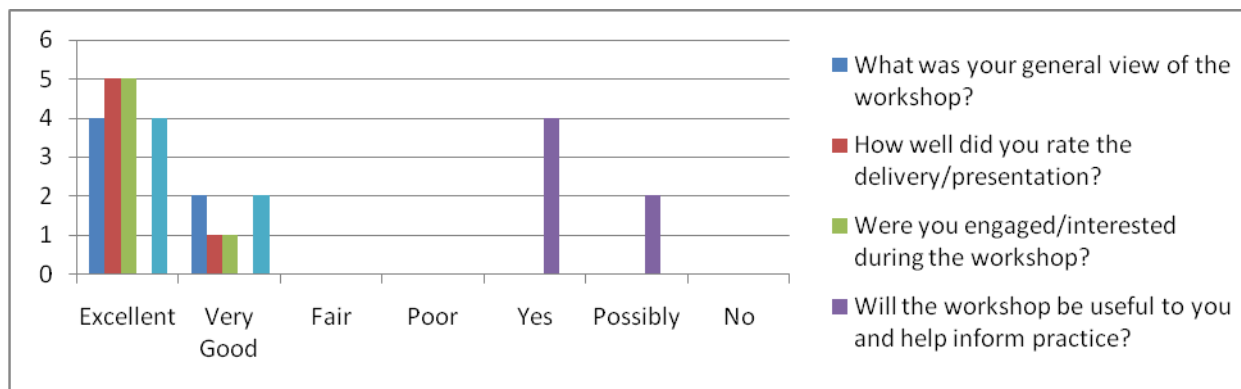
Workshop 4: Do Your Assessment Strategies Support the Development of Employability Skills in Your Students?
Presenter: Cassandra O'Connor, Arts Media and Education, University Learning & Teaching Fellow



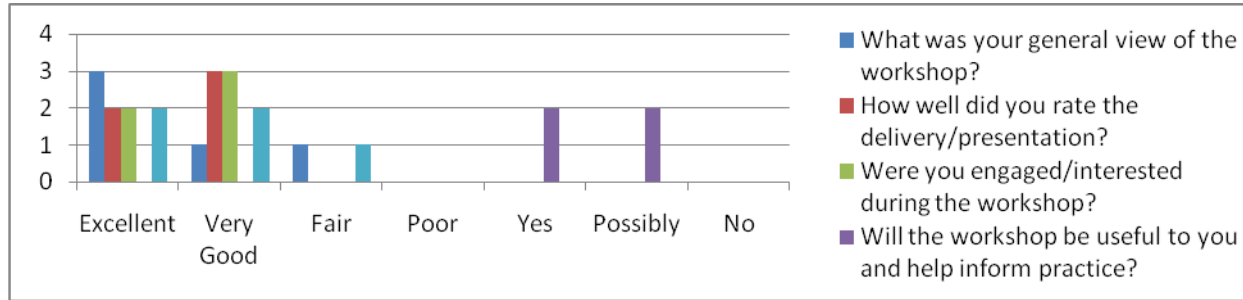
Workshop 5: On a Scale of 1 to 9: Assessing the English-Language Competence of International Students
Presenters: Elisabeth Planella/Alan Entwistle, Bolton Business School



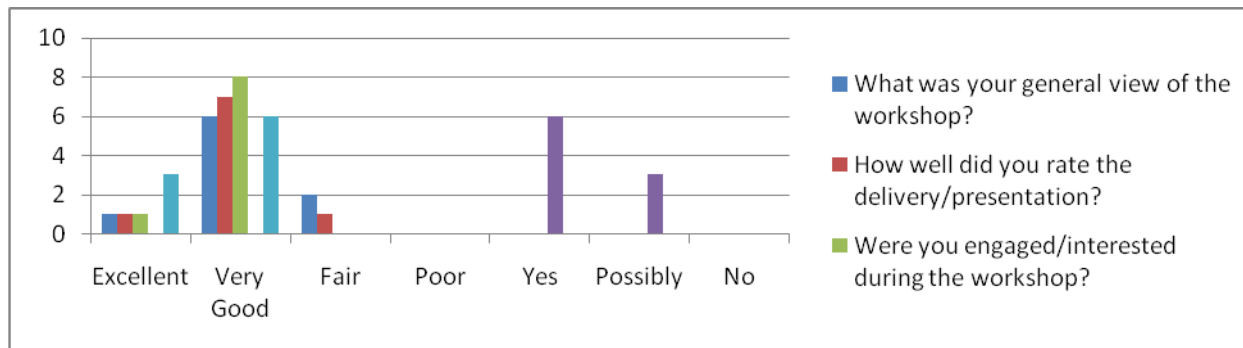
Workshop 6: Show & Tell for the Point and Click Generation: The Benefits of Multimedia Assessment of Undergraduate Knowledge
Presenters: Debbie Abdel Nabi, University Learning & Teaching Fellow, Health & Social Sciences/Alan Entwistle, Bolton Business School



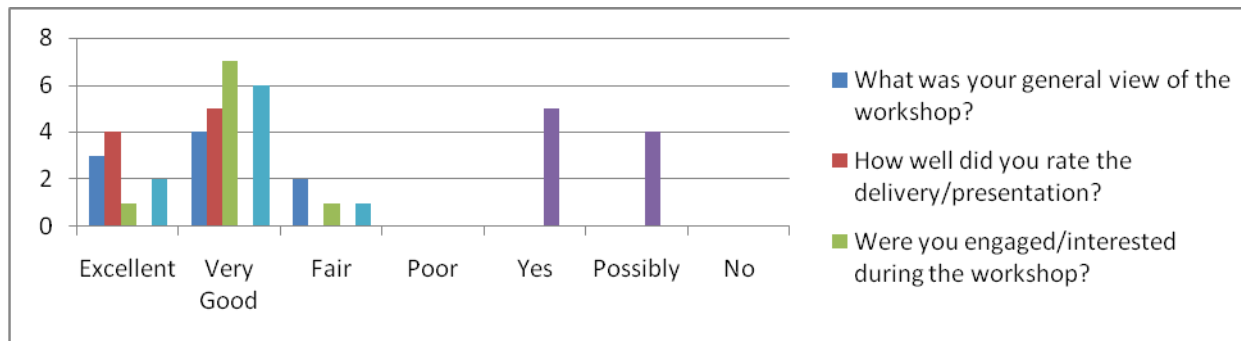
Workshop 8: Students, What Are They Really Saying? And Who's Listening?
Presenters: Student Liaison Officers



Workshop 9: Alternative and Inclusive Assessment of Disabled Students
Presenter: Tina Elliot, Disability Consultant, Impact Associates



Workshop 10: Revealing Your Understanding: Challenges & Opportunities for Teaching, Learning and Communicating in a Global, Technology-Rich World
Presenters: Mark Johnson, The Institute for Educational Cybernetics/Zubair Hanslot, Vice Chancellor's Office/ Ged Clarke, Bolton Business School



Workshop 11: Information Literacy: Do You Know What Your Students Needs to Know?
Presenters: Shirley Ward/Dawn Grundy, Library

Only 4 completed questionnaires received.

Workshop 12: Xerte from Nottingham University's Learning Team: Free Browser-based Tools Supporting Lecturers Who Want to Develop Their Own Content & Assessments
Presenters: Roy Attwood, Games Computing and Creative Technologies/Julian Tenney/Patrick Lockley, University of Nottingham

Register and completed questionnaires not returned

Conference Overall Attendance		
University Staff - Department	No. Attended	Booked - Non-attendance
Arts, Media and Education	37	4
BLIS Centre	3	1
Board of Governors	0	
Bolton Business School	26	
Built Environment and Engineering	26	3
Centre for International Relations	0	
Centre for Materials, Research and Innovation	0	1
Estates	2	1
Finance Office	0	
Games Computing and Creative Technologies	17	
Health and Social Sciences	48	8
Information Systems and Technology	6	2
The Institute for Educational Cybernetics	6	
Learning, Retention and Professional Practice	9	
Library	11	
Marketing and Communications	2	
Personnel and Organisational Development	1	
Professional Research Development	1	
Quality Assurance and Enhancement	3	
Strategy, Policy and Development Support	8	
Student Ambassadors	6	
Student Data Management	0	
Student Services	4	2
Students' Union	5	
Vice Chancellor's Office	3	
University Staff Total	224	22
External Guests & Speakers	No. Attended	Booked - Non-attendance
ASKe CETL, Oxford Brookes University	1	
Bolton Community College	4	1
Bury College	3	
Cheshire Hospices	1	
Greater Manchester Strategic Alliance	0	1
Higher Education Academy	1	
Impact Associates	1	
National Union of Students	1	
Nottingham Trent University	1	
Salford College	1	
School of Sound Recording	1	
Sheffield Hallam University	2	
Skills Solutions	3	
Stockport NHS Foundations Trust	0	1
University of Nottingham	2	
WIMBA	1	
Externals Total	22	3

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK COMMENTS	
Positive Aspects of the Conference	Aspects of the Conference which could be improved
Administration/Organisation	Administration/Organisation
Organisation superb	Timetabled break in the morning
Very well organised and implemented. Enjoyed the speakers, interesting food for thought.	I felt hour long sessions too long to concentrate
Clear flow to the day and well organised. Well done. Good support for collaborative partners to be invited (thankyou)	The morning up until 11:30am was a very long time to be sat without a break, could maybe benefit from more workshops and less speakers?
Really enjoyed it! Organisation and food (lunch) was excellent. It's great not to be feeling embarrassed by ?? Well done Sue and the team.	A good mix of lecture/group participation workshops - this works much better than a full day of lecture presentations.
Well organised (several comments)	Would have preferred another workshop and less presentations
Good packs, good directions, good day	contribution
Good, smooth organised conference, thankyou	It would have been better to have 2 sessions of small workshops and fewer keynote speakers
Thank you for organising it and I was able to attend in the end	Conference should be more interactive
VERY SLICK organisation!	Breaks between presentations
Excellent organisation, hard work put in	
Excellent! (Reiterated on several comments)	
Lots of helpers, lots of signs, facilities etc	
Really well organised	
Very well organised and implemented. Enjoyed the speakers, interesting food for thought.	
Pre-conference administration convenient and plenty of useful reminders from Admin	
Easy - slick	
Quick	
Student Ambassadors worked particularly hard	
Fab	
Conference Administration on the day slick and smooth	
Professionally run	
Accommodation	Accommodation
Cool	Hard to see slide shows from back row in conference theatre

Provided in a well ventilated room	More workshops/audience interaction - helps to mix the levels of interest and participation
Room air conditioned	Would have been good to have attended or have a choice to attend two workshops as I feel they have a valuable
Excellent	Check comfort levels - got progressively colder when sitting all day, as day progressed (air conditioned room)
Very good conference venue, felt proud of the facilities etc	Better rooms, rooms were either too hot or too cold
Good facilities	Long queues for coffee and tea - very crowded
Comfortable environment	
Venue better than previously. Came for evening 'do' and couldn't find it	
Nice venue - better than main lecture theatre re: lighting and Air conditioning (multi screens useful too)	
University of Bolton shown at its best	
Social Learning Zone good venue for lunch	
Workshop room C1-02 was too hot! Plan the workshops in an air-conditioned room	
Catering	Catering
Food (lunch) was excellent	Tea and coffee needs more tables and distribution.
Lunch well organised	More choice for refreshment snacks
Food very good	Lack of sufficient coffee at mid morning break. No biscuits left at some breaks
Good food	I asked for a vegan lunch when I booked but when I asked for it at the conference I was told it had been forgotten. The catering supervisor didn't have any understanding of which options were vegan
Georgous but more choice of dessert please	Sushi - NO THANK YOU - food very disappointing at the evening event!
Drinks were good	Coffee break please
Excellent lunch	No refreshments in my particular workshop - long gap between lunch and finish (C2-03 - Xerte workshop)
Excellent food and refreshments.	
Conference LT Workshops Overall	Conference LT Workshops Overall
Interesting breakout sessions	I felt the smaller workshops were of most use
The workshop that I attended was excellent	More upfront information about workshop choices to help guide usefulness prior to choosing rather than just a title of workshop

Excellent workshop	More than one workshop would be better - would allow presenters to participate/watch someone else
I particularly enjoyed the Xerte workshop	Would be better if longer workshops
Chris Mulryan workshop really interesting, informed my teaching practice, encouraged inter-department working	Participants wanted more time to share their experience
Workshop was excellent	Found 1 hr to be very tight - would have like longer
Practical sessions (workshops) were useful	Workshop presenters would like to see others' presentations
Found the workshop 'On a Scale of 1-9' very interesting	Missed lunch setting up for workshop
Workshop was well presented with delightful Student Liaison Officers leading it	
Conference Keynote Presentations	Conference Keynote Presentations
Excellent speakers, in the main	Shorter delivery and more debate would have kept me awake
The speakers were interesting: though doesn't research suggest we have a somewhat shorter concentration span than 3/4 hr!	Less repetition in topics
All speakers were concise and clear	Difficult as slides in pack not same as speakers, as unable to view board. Last session too much information
I learned some useful things and have noted down some actions I will be taking as a consequence of which I have learned	More emphasis on how we get students to be good thinkers and less emphasis on tools (eg technology) which are mere objects to the process of enhancing students' cognitive abilities
I think it is good to focus on one key issue such as this (assessment), rather than attempting to address many issues	An opportunity to reflect in subject groups or course teams to discuss ideas for implementation
Good choice of topic though it was more feedback than assessment!	Handouts did not necessarily follow/represent the presentations (particularly last presentation)
Some useful practical points to implement	A little repetitive towards the last two lectures
Assessment theme very pertinent and excellent presentations	It would be useful if the individual powerpoint handouts in the pack actually matched the presentations (Sheffield Hallam & Oxford Brookes did not match up). Would have preferred more workshops and fewer keynote speakers (as in previous years) as there was too much overlap
Appropriate topics - thought provoking	Much information was repeated throughout the day. Maybe a more diverse speaker list would stop this?
Why did I get 37% - excellent start	Difficult to hear last presenter over air conditioning until microphone came on 3/4's way through - Presenter quiet/softly spoken
All extremely useful, except for a slight tendency for main presenters to overlap on themes. This is understandable though	VC's session - talks fast and unclear at times

Very interesting and relevant topics and some good speakers.	Aaron Porter presentation - repetition of issues that were presented earlier in the day little further. I also thought it was poor that he left before the end of the plenary session.
The guest speakers gave us an opportunity to show the University at its best	PA system seemed ineffective. Apparently it was switched off for most the last speaker session. What were you playing at?!
Live streaming allowed presentations to be watched from the Social Learning Zone (Does everyone need to be in the same room?)	Shorter presentations with a break in between - too much sitting this year (Several comments to this effect)
Visually effective - good use of videos and presentations as a whole	Perhaps intersperse keynotes with 30-45 min workshops
	Conference speeches were too drawn out and the final speaker was very poor. The NUS speaker was not concerned with student responsibility and their need to engage. Presentation seemed biased in favour of a negative student viewpoint and did not consider or seem aware of the excellent student/tutor relations we have in place.
	Sound system poor, especially for last speaker. It was mid-way through her talk before anyone realised it was off. Where were the sound engineers in rectifying it sooner? Certain talks were a little long and laboured aspects of their discussion
Conference Overall/Any other comments	Conference Overall/Any other comments
Professional/well organised/very informative	Greater use of IT equipment during presentations. More workshops
Well organised - informative speakers on key issues	More of the same
Respectful treatment of delegates	Social aspect very important - more mingling required
I enjoyed the Conference, so informative, upbeat and useful. Forward my sincere thanks to the army of individuals you had supporting the event, a huge task I am sure, however I feel despite the enormity of the event, it was all delivered very professionally and was exceptionally well organised and orchestrated	Happier when conference was held in different part of the campus. Conference theatre hold us captive with speaker after speaker talking at us. Most delegates do not want to ask questions in such a formal environment. Find informal discussions around the table are healthier and more productive
A good networking opportunity	Felt more should have attended end of conference celebration
Assessment as we have learnt is the best thing we give to students in their learning and this was aptly captured in this conference	Excellent turnout initially but very disappointing that delegates dwindled away - impolite!
Overall, the conference was really useful and gave good for thought	Where did everyone go - missed a treat
The live feed to offices was very useful	Online feedback - could this be used next year? It would help to collect more thoughts/comments
Excellent conference	

Once again, a FABULOUS conference. ALL very interesting and engaging	
Always interesting	
Enjoyed the day as a whole. Looking forward to 2010	
I thoroughly enjoyed the day and thought you had put together a really good programme. Well done to you all	
Very useful and enjoyable, thank you very much	
Streaming service worked very well for myself and other colleagues unable to attend	
Good opportunity to bring everyone together	
I found the Conference very useful and enjoyed the range of interesting speakers. It was really well organised and a really good opportunity to network.	
Superb - Well done to all	
Some truly useful and relevant ideas in keynotes (I'll be poachng!)	
Thank you for the chance to attend - the workshop was very useful	
I really had fun on the day - it was a pleasure	
Conference Workshops - Evaluation Form Comments	
Positive Aspects of the Workshop	Aspects of the Workshop which could be improved
The workshop will inform/enhance our student experience	
Workshop 1: Wimba Collaboration Suite: So Much More Than a Virtual Classroom	
Very informative and interesting session. Given me food for thought re its application to my area of work.	Apart from some equipment glitches - the room was extremely hot.
This looks excellent for research, overseas teaching etc. Will we buy these tools?	Too hot!!
Good IT facilities.	Too short! Need to do a one or (preferably) two day workshop as part of CPD.
Looks like useful software.	Not sure if we have level of technology in house to cope if interest level increases.
	Room too hot!
	Several other comments on the heat of the room!
Workshop 2: Widening Participation, Narrowing Retention: An Appraisal of a Small Selection of University of Bolton Pedagogical Approaches Enhancing the Student Experience	
Good, thoughtful and wide-ranging presentation. Lots of evidence to work with and lots of discussion.	More time needed.

A fantastic resource/report well constructed and useful.	I think we need to grapple with important University-wide structural and admin problems, in terms of bettering 'participation'. Often such factors are ignored.
Useful information within the report. Will be using it to inform the student written submission for the upcoming institutional Audit 2010/11.	
Very useful and interesting. Useful document to take away.	
Workshop 3: Using Simulation as an Assessment and Feedback Tool: Getting it Right in Real Life	
Thank you!	Will want to know more about how simulation will help in other disaster areas ie non-clinical which are largely unexpected and unpredictable.
A very interesting approach and good to see how simulation actually works! Whilst a labour-intensive approach, I am convinced that it is something we should do in many of our disciplines.	
I am not medically qualified but I found the workshop very interesting. We do use simulation extensively in an electronic engineering environment both on campus and online. Thanks for an interesting experience. PS - If you had put 'medical' in the title you would have had a bigger attendance.	
The workshop was very well planned and executed. Although the example was medical the structure can be clearly extrapolated to be relevant in much wider fields. Very useful indeed.	
Opens the floodgates for many opportunities.	
Chris, what can we bribe you with? Anna!	
Workshop 4: Do Your Assessment Strategies Support the Development of Employability Skills in Your Students?	
	General feedback - a suggestion that next year feedback sheets are electronic.
	Could have had more time!
	Longer.
	Could have been longer!
	A copy of the powerpoint would be useful.
Workshop 5: On a Scale of 1 to 9: Assessing the English-Language Competence of International Students	
The sample test was very helpful.	Would have welcomed more time for discussion re process of referral, support classes etc. plus effectiveness of (?word) etc
Gave me a real insight into IELTS, and some useful contacts on these issues.	
Excellent, very informative!!	

Very interesting. Filled in a gap in my knowledge that I have long had.	
Excellent, good practical workshop!	
Workshop 6: Show & Tell for the Point and Click Generation: The Benefits of Multimedia Assessment of Undergraduate Knowledge	
Excellent presentation - very useful.	
Super session, very informative and useful.	
Up to me to find apps that fit in my area of work.	
Workshop 8: Students, What Are They Really Saying? And Who's Listening?	
This was the best workshop I've attended. Beautifully thought out and presented, made all its points clearly and without preaching, and the whole thing was highly entertaining. I really enjoyed it and felt I'd learned something at the end. (Although, since I'm not an academic, I've no way of applying it.)	
Really useful to have an interactive session after the presentations of the morning session. The workshop was both interesting and useful.	
Really enjoyed the session, was informative and it had a creative way to keep you engaged in the session. If anything the session could have been delivered over a 1.5 hours not 1 hour.	
The exam conditions were innovative and unexpected but didn't allow people in that environment to discuss issues generally. I believe the only benefit from Annual Conference is the opportunity to meet and talk with staff from other departments. The exercise in the second half was rushed, and the others in my team seemed to know each other. It was difficult to engage with them in the time that was left. My own area has a successful reputation in terms of assessment and feedback; some talk of exams was not relevant to many subject areas, and what was said generally is already in place. That said, the workshop was well presented with delightful student liaison officers leading it. (More comments related to the Conference as a whole - included in Conference feedback.)	
Workshop 9: Alternative and Inclusive Assessment of Disabled Students	
Very useful. Will adapt to examination of professional portfolios.	Time too short unfortunately.
More time to share views would have been good - but a really interesting exercise nevertheless.	Too short! Needed time to take the feedback from the group activity which was very interesting and important to share!
Very thought provoking.	
Workshop 10: Revealing Your Understanding: Challenges & Opportunities for Teaching, Learning and Communicating in a Global, Technology-Rich World	
Would have liked a longer session - otherwise excellent.	

A very good example of how to conduct interactive learning. Taught me a lot in a very clever way!!!	
Interactivity made this a good workshop.	
Workshop 11: Information Literacy: Do You Know What Your Students Needs to Know?	
It was a useful session for me, and I came away with some additional ideas for my teaching.	
The workshop was extremely useful and I am now going to try and build the Literary Strategy into my seminar materials. I thought that the planning and presentation of the workshop was excellent and that the library team had done a fantastic job as they always do. It was nice to see the library staff have the opportunity to inform academic staff about their knowledgeable insights. I also wish the library team and in particular Shirley Ward and Dawn Grundy well with the Literary Strategy.	
Workshop 12: Xerte from Nottingham University's Learning Team: Free Browser-based Tools Supporting Lecturers Who Want to Develop Their Own Content & Assessments	
Information not returned	