MEMORANDUM

TO: **UA Faculty and Instructors**

FROM: **Gail Burd, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs**
                     Michele Norin, Chief Information Officer

RE: **Faculty Discussion on Classroom Responders ("clickers") and Response Software**

DATE: **October 15, 2010**

ABOR mandates that the Universities make every effort to reduce the costs of textbooks. Part of these costs often include the purchase of specific classroom responders ("clickers") for use in a given course. Many students have been required to purchase multiple types of responders, often costing $50 or more each.

Last spring a task force made up of faculty and staff reviewed available classroom responders and associated software. Members of the task force included: Albrecht Classen, Suzanne Delaney, Julie Feldman, Tom Fleming, Amy Fountain, Andrew Grall, Joyce Hamilton, Katie Hirschboeck, Jane Hunter, Robert Indik, Susan Jorstad, Julia Kamp, Lynda Kelly, Ron Landis, Elaine Marchello, Cecile McKee, Bill Neumann, Janet Nicol, Kate Rehkopt, Jim Riley (chair), Joellen Russell, and Matthew Swatzel.

The task force recommended that UA support one type of responder and associated software – TurningPoint ResponseWare clickers and TurningPoint Anywhere polling software for the classroom. The Office of the Provost, the Office of the CIO, including UITS, and ASUA strongly support this recommendation.

Advantages of institutional support for a single "clicker" and response software include:
1. Reduced instructional costs to students who would only need to purchase one clicker,
2. Better classroom support for the clickers by UITS technicians trained on one clicker,
3. Better clicker registration support,
4. Better support from the vendor for the clickers and polling software,
5. Better support for faculty use of the polling software,
6. Reduced institutional costs by bundling clicker and software license agreements, and
7. Potential integration of the polling responses directly into D2L.

Several sessions to discuss this issue are available for interested faculty and instructors. Members from the task force, students from ASUA, someone from the bookstore, support personnel from the Office of Instruction and Assessment and from UITS, along with Michele Norin (CIO) and Gail Burd (Vice Provost for Academic Affairs), will be present at these discussions.
    Remaining Sessions:
- Monday, October 18 – 4 PM – Tubac Room, Student Union
- Friday, October 29 – 9 AM – Tubac Room, Student Union