Digital Annotation Hybrid Strategy with Dr Zoran Vulovic

Faculty / School: UNSW Engineering, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Room: Hybrid CATS - Mathews 101 & Mathews 102 Interactive Active Learning Spaces
Course: Undergraduate (n= 77)
Application(s): Teams, One Note (for annotated lecture notes), Lecture Recordings+
Technology used: Lectern computer, Dual Radio microphone, Push to talk microphones and screens (at each pod), own digital ink tablet/laptop, fixed wall mounted digital camera (Presets)*

Academic Takeaways

How did you manage engagement with the students?

My initial idea was to create a seamless environment with no clear boundaries between the in-person and online student cohorts of the class. I would regularly prompt for questions and comments which only the in-person students readily accepted. The online students, with few exceptions, were happier to just type in the chat, despite my invitations to use the hand-up option or simply unmute the microphones and speak.

After a couple of lectures, this became a norm that everyone seemed satisfied with.

What were the outcomes?

The final outcomes were very similar to the fully on-line delivery in 2021 or fully in-person versions of the course prior to the pandemic. There was no clear divide between the online and in-person cohorts of the class as many students would alternate between the two. Some students attended neither, probably relying on lecture recordings.

For these reasons it was impossible to make any meaningful comparison between the two modes of attendance.

What advice would you give other academics wanting to teach in hybrid?

I definitely recommend hybrid teaching over fully online. The visual feedback I got from the real human beings in front of me significantly adds to the natural feel of what a lecture is supposed to be. However, the future users should bear in mind that the setup of the equipment before each class takes a bit longer than if the class were fully in-person.

I also recommend practicing before the very first class in the session, this effort is absolutely worth it.

NOTE
* From Term 1, 2022 camera function options include tracking, presets and manual control.