Carnegie Mellon Faculty Survey: Student Attendance vs. Performance

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Agenda

- Review of Proposal
- Results
- Preliminary Inferences
- Encountered Problems
- Possible Solutions
- Q&A

Review of Proposal

- Research Question
 - Does attendance policy have an effect on student performance?
- Population of Interest
 - Students and Faculty
- Questionnaire
 - Faculty Survey regarding attendance policy and student performance
- Sample Design
 - 1-stage Clustered Random Sample
- Sample Selection
 - Departments selected from each cluster

Changes to Method

- Surveyed entire faculty from publicly available department websites
 - vs. obtaining a list of courses from last Fall 2010 semester
- Added incentive
 - vs. no incentive
- Didn't follow-up in-person (due to change in sample frame)
 - vs. face-to-face follow-up

Response Results

- Sent the email out to 519 total Faculty Including:
 - Graduate and Undergraduate teachers
 - Some faculty that did not teach a Fall 2010 undergraduate course
 - Some faculty that did not follow the instructions correctly
 - Graduate courses

Response Results

- Current number of responses by Cluster:
 - MCS: 11
 - CIT: 12
 - SCS: 4
 - H&SS: 21
 - Tepper: 6
 - CFA: 3
- Current number of responses by Attendance Policy:
 - Mandatory: 37
 - Optional: 22
- Response Rate: 57/519 = approx. 11%
 - Probably higher due to ineligible sample units

Preliminary Inferences

- From a first look at the current data there appear to be the following relationships:
 - Percentage of Grade Dependent on Attendance <u>and</u> Mean Final Grade
 - Size of Class and Mean Final Grade
- Require more data to observe the following relationships:
 - Class attendance policy and Mean Final Grade
 - College <u>and</u> Mean Final Grade
 - Available Blackboard Notes and Mean Final Grade
 - Class attendance policy <u>and</u> Percentage of students who attend

Encountered Problems and Solutions: Part I

- Problem 1: Difficulty in attaining list of Faculty
 - Needed list of Faculty who taught a Fall 2010 semester course
 - Difficulty in attaining the list then when we found the correct person we were not permitted to be given the list
 - Solution: Email the entire faculty using the emails publicly available on the department websites, specifically requesting those who taught Fall 2010 courses

Encountered Problems and Solutions: Part II

- Problem 2: Non-response
 - Low response rate from the initial email
 - Sent the email and survey to 500+ faculty members
 - 44 faculty responded
 - Problem v2.5: Spamming Issue
 - In our attempt to follow-up with the faculty, Gmail tagged us as spammers (emails immediately bounced back)
 - Solution 2.5: Had to wait a few days before sending out a new email
 - Solution 2???
 - Still waiting on responses to see if we get an improvement

Q&A

Any Questions?