

Tracking Faculty Uses of Online Learning Tools: A Statewide Perspective



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Abstract

As part of the GeorgiaVIEW (Vista Implementation Enterprise Wide) project, a study of current faculty uses, experiences, and expectations regarding course management systems (CMS) was conducted. This poster describes the results of this system-wide survey which provided critical data during a statewide deployment of an academic enterprise system.

Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study was:

- To collect and analyze pre-implementation data on course management system use among University System faculty.
- To use this data to inform development of support, services, and training for faculty to use WebCT Vista.
- To use this data to inform strategies for encouraging faculty not currently using CMS to try it.

Key Study Questions

- What is the extent of the faculty use of CMS on each campus and system wide?
- What factors encourage faculty to start using a CMS?
- What factors determine whether faculty increase or decrease their use?
- For what purposes are CMS used?
- What are the pedagogical advantages of using a CMS?
- What barriers prevent faculty from using a CMS?

Survey Details

- Survey administered online.
- 33 of 34 institutions participated.
- Between 25-80% of faculty at each institution responded.
- Total number of responses = 3,228
- Approximately 37% of all USG faculty participated.

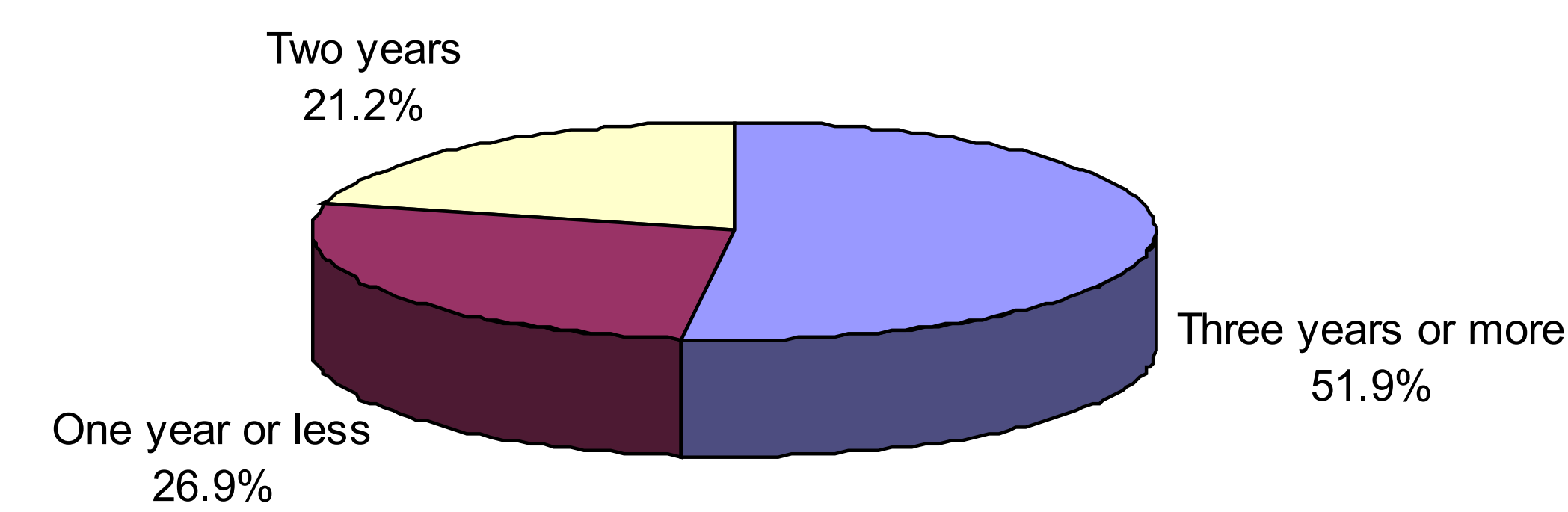
Demographics of Respondents

- 58.0% of respondents were tenured/tenure track faculty
- 16.7% of respondents were non-tenure track
- 13.4% of respondents were part-time faculty
- 19.6% of respondents were in Arts/Humanities
- 13.1% of respondents were in Social Sciences
- 10.4% of respondents were in Math/Computer Science

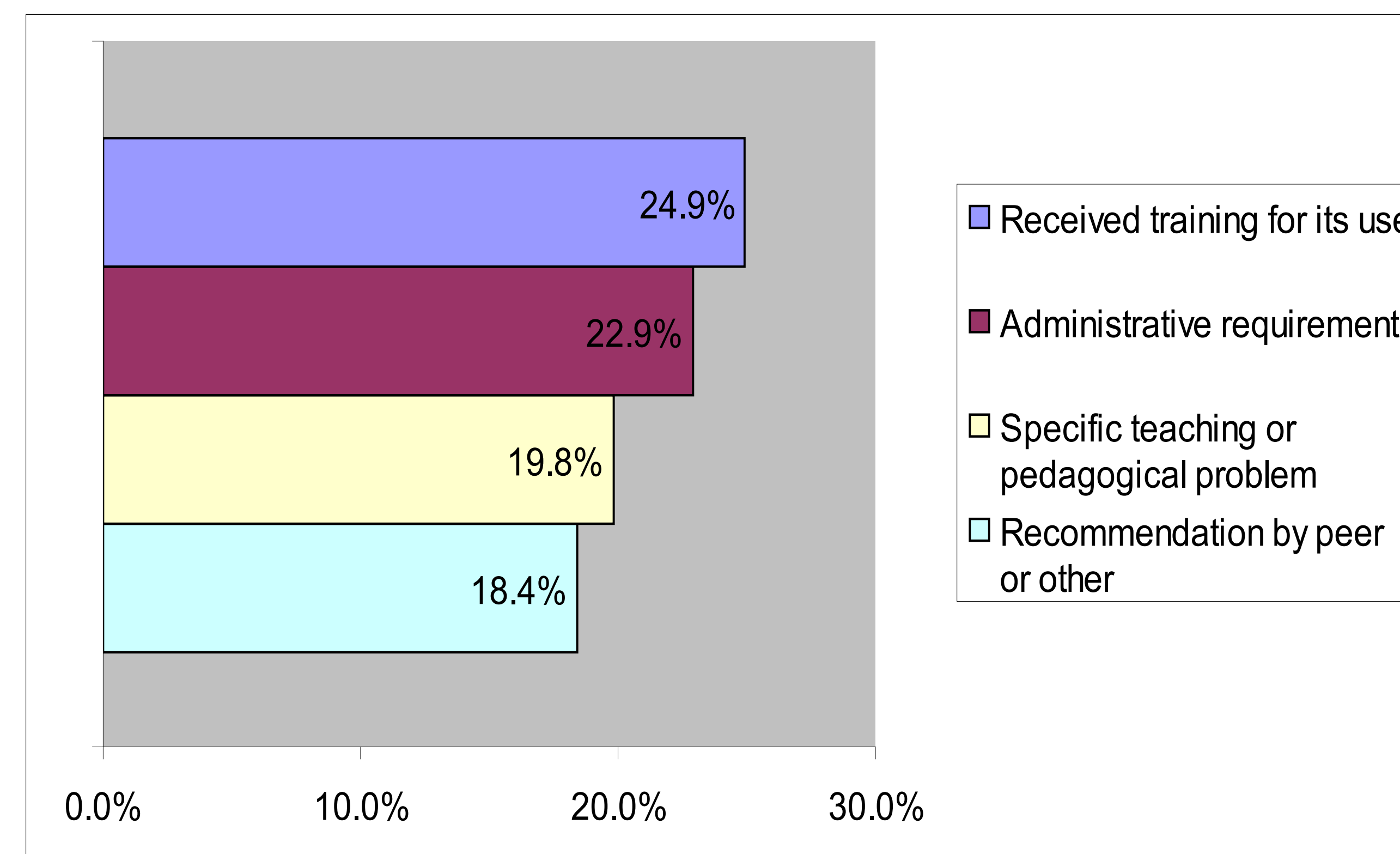
What is the extent of the faculty use of CMS on each campus and system wide?

- 46.3% of respondents were currently using a CMS
- 51.9% of respondents have been using a CMS for more than three years
- 61.1% of users rated their skills with a CMS as "intermediate"

How long have you been using a Course Management System?



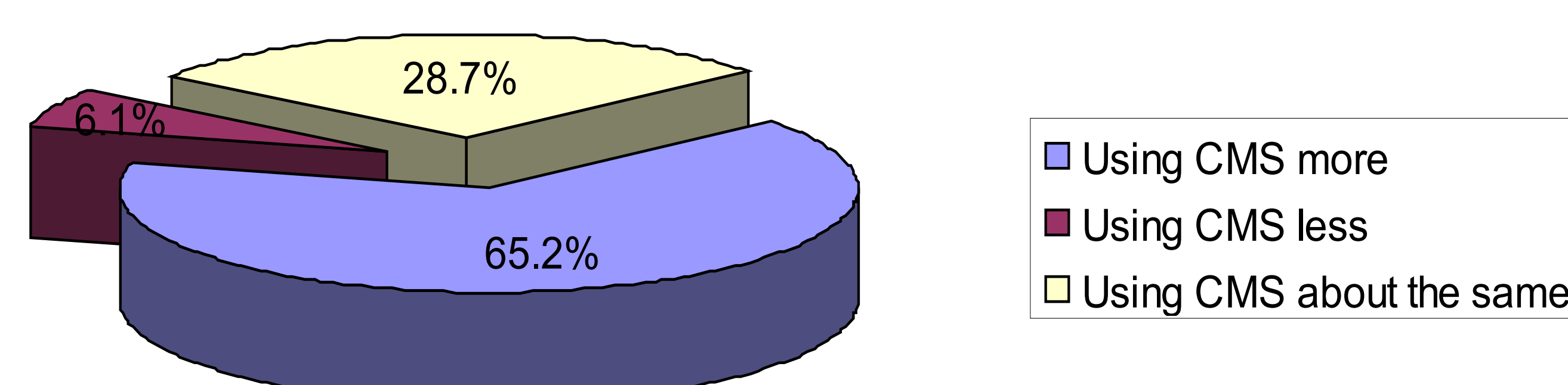
What factors encourage faculty to start using a CMS?



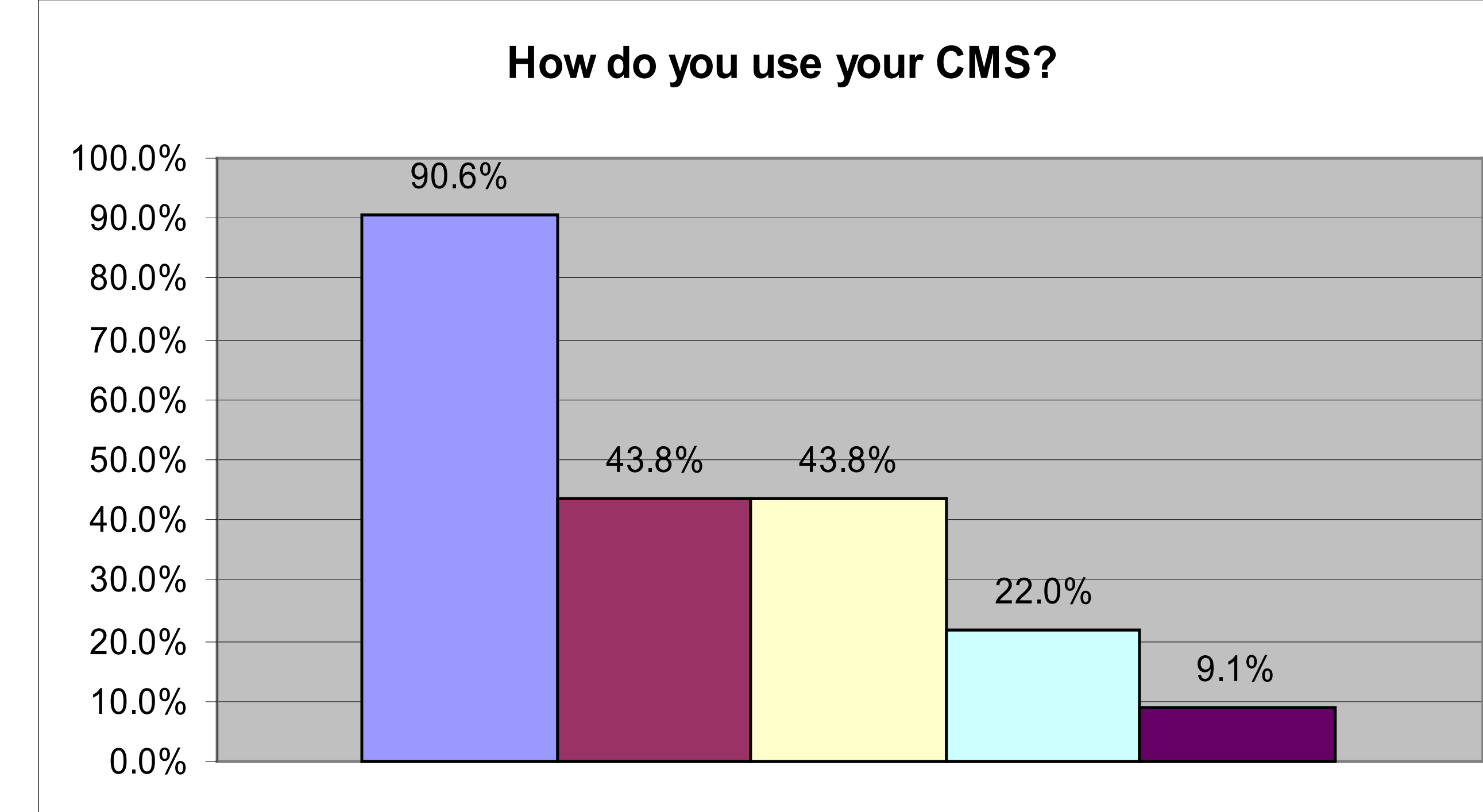
What factors determine whether faculty increase or decrease their use?

- 86.9% gained increased comfort with the technology and began to use it in new ways.
- 82.7% began to see increased uses for it in their teaching.
- 51.0% received additional training on the product.
- 41.4% liked new CMS features which made it a more useful tool for their teaching.

Compared to when you first started using a CMS, how would you describe your current usage in general?



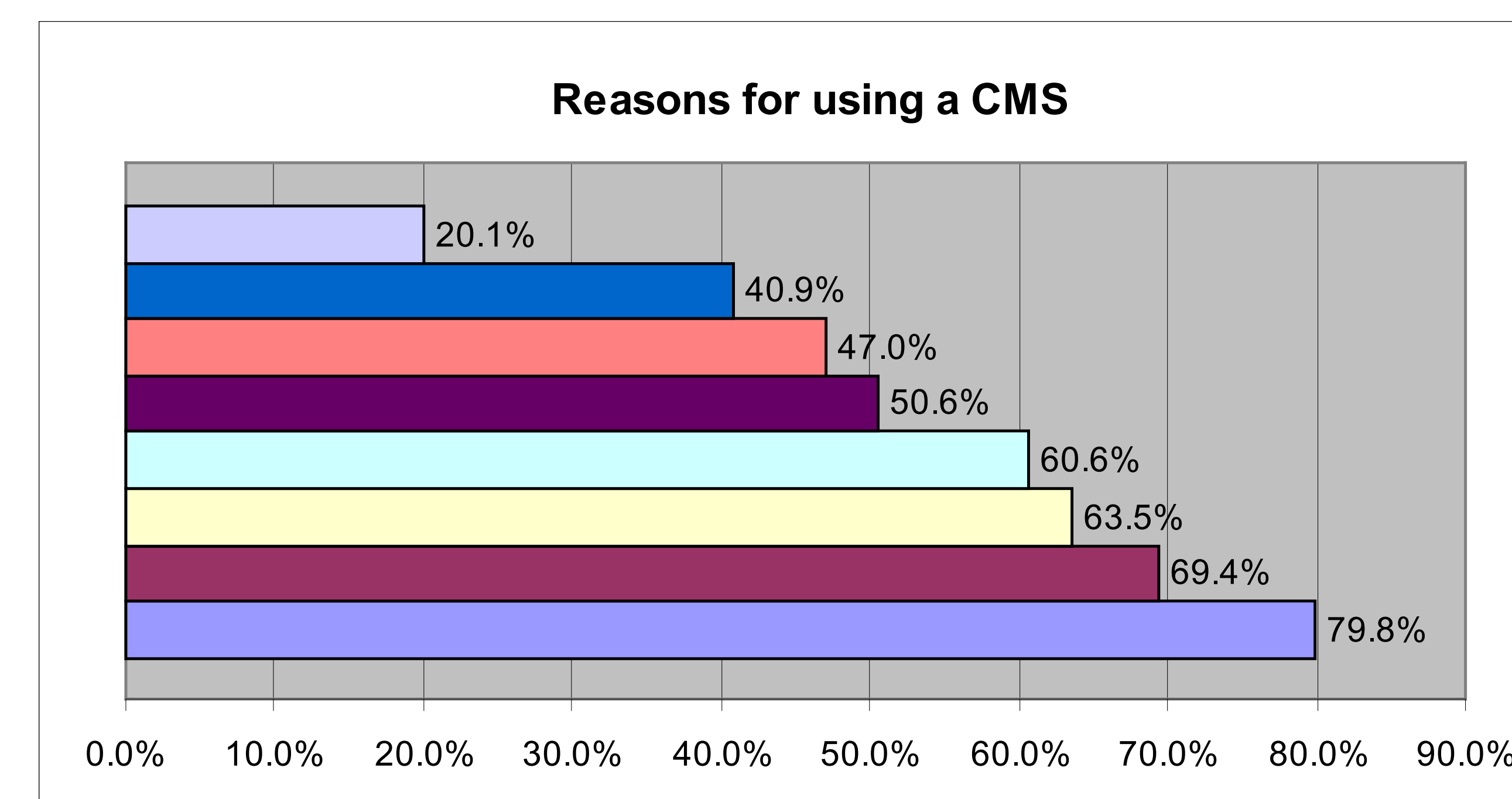
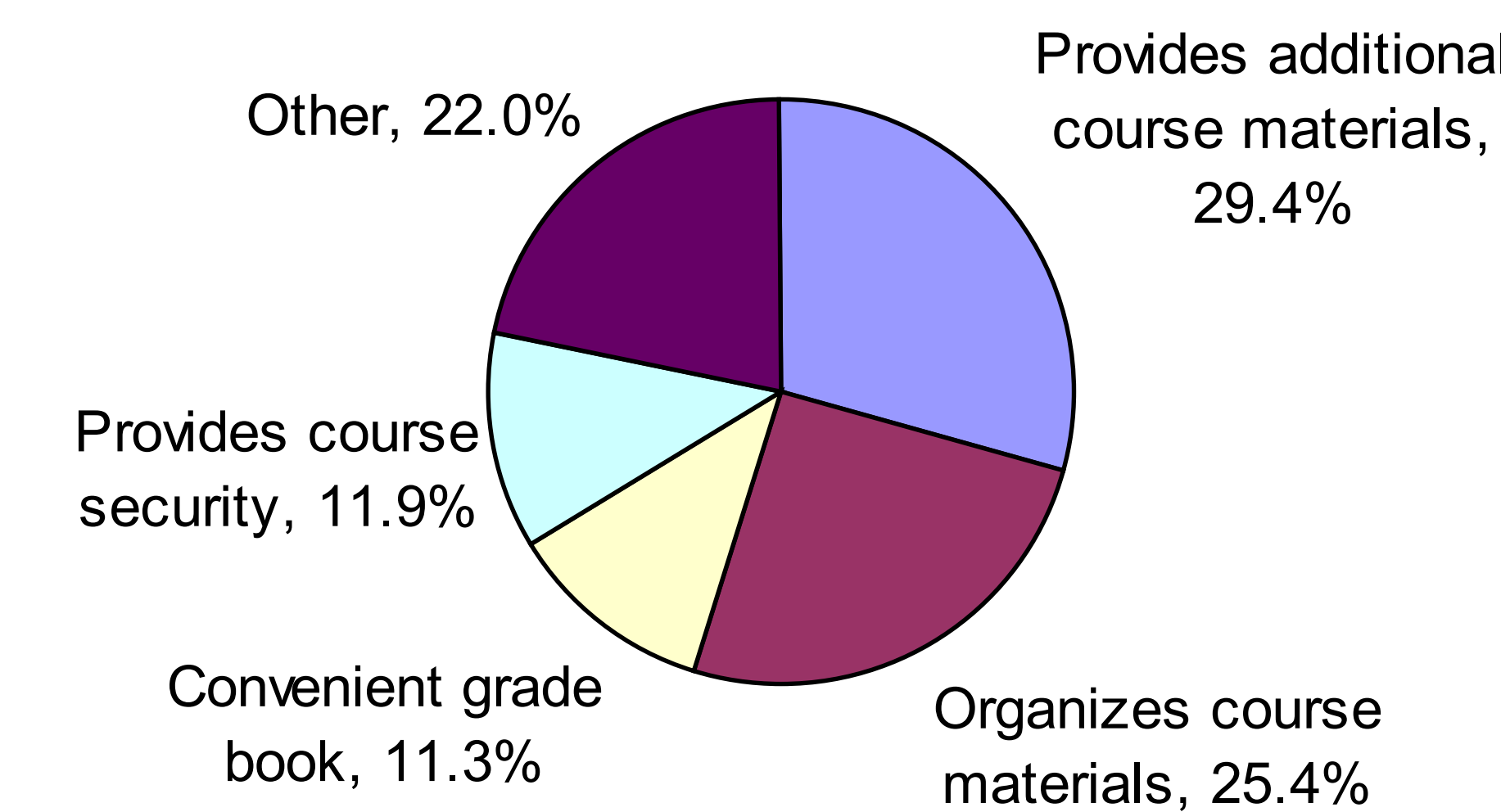
For what purposes are CMS used?



- 90.6% to enhance face-to-face courses
- 43.8% to teach fully online courses
- 43.8% to teach hybrid courses
- 22.0% to provide access to non-course related information and activities
- 9.1% to conduct continuing education or training courses

What are the pedagogical advantages of using a CMS?

What do you see as the major advantage of using a CMS?

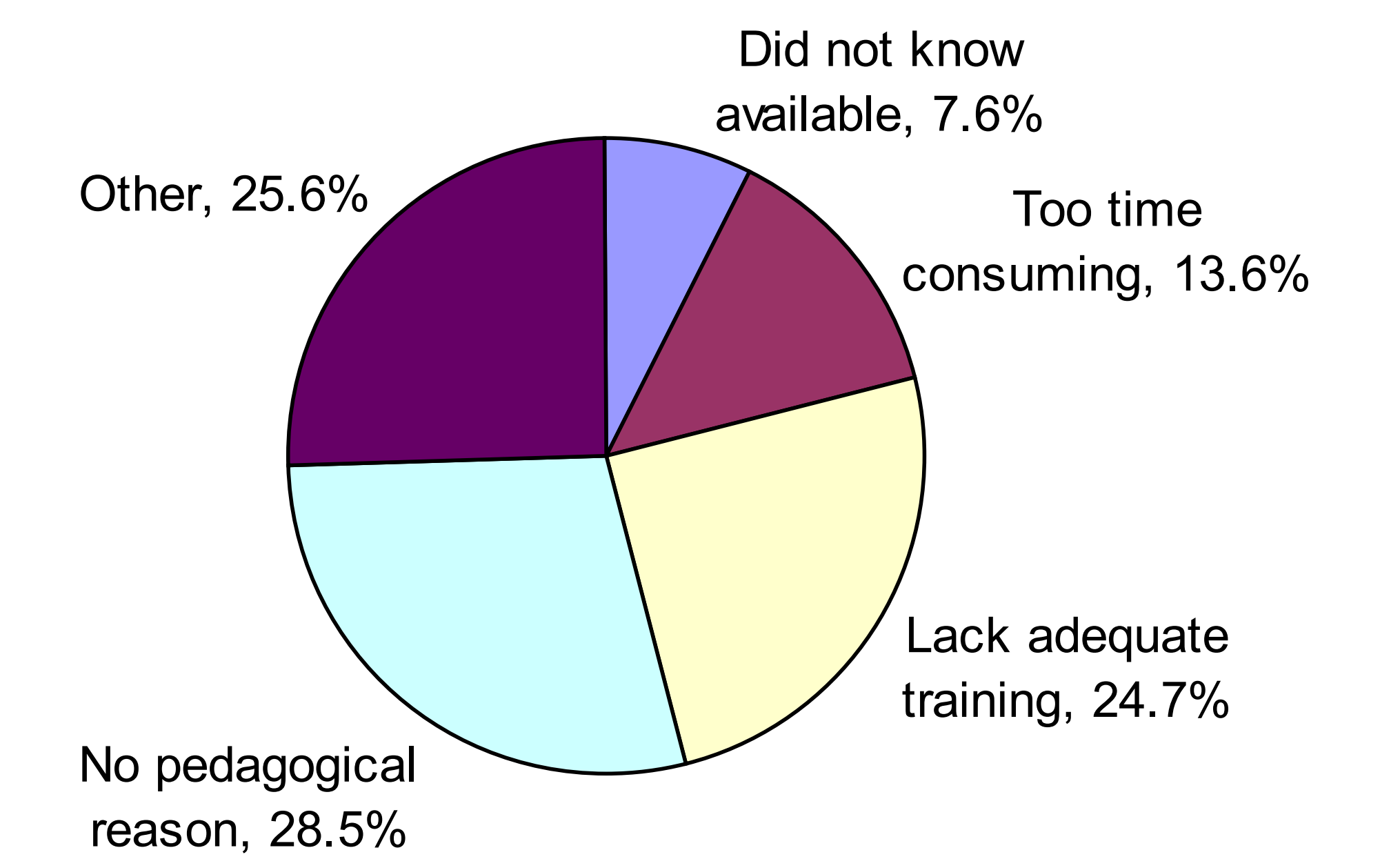


- Other
- To increase time on task for your students
- To provide more transparency for your students
- To increase student-student contact or cooperativity
- To increase instructor-student contact
- To provide more or more prompt feedback
- To provide more interactivity
- To supplement lecture materials

What barriers prevent faculty from using a CMS?

- 53.7% of respondents did not currently use a CMS.
- 44.2% of non-users felt they would use a CMS if their concerns were addressed.
- 42.0% of non-users were unsure if they would use a CMS ever.
- 24.7% of respondents said they lacked adequate training
- 28.5% of respondents saw no pedagogical reason for using a CMS

What is the primary reason you do not currently use a CMS?



Conclusions

- Nearly half of all USG faculty currently use a CMS in their instruction
- Of those using a CMS, nearly two-thirds have increased their usage over time
- Nearly two-thirds of users have found a CMS useful in increasing the engagement of their students in learning.
- Surveys such as this survey can form a solid baseline metric for CMS use and implementation.
- Surveys of this type may also help institutions comply with SACS requirements to assess faculty use and proficiency with technology.

Future Studies

- Modified surveys will be deployed approximately every 24-30 months for longitudinal studies of CMS usage.
- Future surveys will have an increased focus on pedagogical aspects of using a CMS for enhancing face-to-face courses, as well as distance learning.
- Additional surveys of student experience with technology will be useful in supplementing faculty surveys.
- For more information, visit <http://alt.usg.edu/research/studies/cms.phtml>