

2. If you are not subscribed to a campus listserv, briefly tell us why you do not use a listserv.

1. I have been warned that they can fill your inbox and they often get very nasty.
2. because they are redundant and uncivil.
3. I would like to see a list serve that is not tied into our e mail system. that way I can hook in when I want, but won't have my e mail overburdened each day.
4. While I remain subscribed to the above listservs, I have thought seriously about dropping out on a number of occasions. I have thought about dropping out because I am sick to death of the list being dominated by a few (one in particular) rude idiots who mistakenly believe that all of us want to know what they think --(and I use this word VERY loosely)-- about every issue that has ever crossed their minds. I stay on the lists only because it is important that we have a forum to engage in our colleagues across the campus. I only wish we could do so without having to suffer fools.
5. don't feel a need, simply
6. New and unaware of the campus listservs
7. This is about question 3 below: I get really annoyed at surveys that require an answer. I really don't know whether I would use such an alternative until I know the details; for now I will answer "no," but leaving it blank would have been a more honest answer. The survey program, however, does not allow such honesty.
8. Too many emails to handle already.
9. I do not wish to inundate my e-mail with every inane thought that comes to the minds of my colleagues.
10. I opted out of the listservs on campus when they first were setup. At the time, the faculty discussions were generating too many emails (which is why the list servs were setup I think.) The main reason is that I don't have time or energy to keep up with all the email. As it is, my email gets full regularly. I am on one list serv from a professional association.
11. After trying for quite a while, I found I could not keep abreast of the volume of email I was receiving
12. After trying for quite a while, I found I could not keep abreast of the volume of email I was receiving
13. I get enough information without them.
14. I haven't subscribed to listservs that my colleagues have subscribed before I joined the department. It was never clear to me which listservs were available for faculty and how I was supposed to subscribe to them.
15. Too much ranting!
16. I don't think listserv content applies much to me, since I am not a librarian
17. I would like to be a part of the CampusForum. I think I was once but don't seem to be on it anymore.
18. Had difficulty finding out what listservs are available and how to subscribe to them
19. Initially, very pleased with listserv capabilities, but became very disappointed as it became more and more utilized by various CCSU members with personal agendas masked by supposed "academic freedom" prerogatives. Many simply used the listserv to forward outside articles to substantiate their own point of view rather than articulate it themselves.
20. I don't find it useful or interesting. When I was subscribed, there were too many flame wars.
21. I do not have the time to read with all the other work I have to do.
22. Just a place for folks to spend useless time. Get to work!
23. I have taken myself off others since many of the discussions of the faculty are cruel and disrespectful.
24. I HAVE NO TIME TO CLEAR ALL THE RANTING FROM MY MAILBOX EACH DAY.
25. Do not know how to sign-up
26. No interest and no time, not part of my job.
27. No interest and not part of my job. Thankfully these list servs were set up a few years ago to stop those who feel entitled to reply to all with their own personal agendas and disrupt those of us who need to check emails frequently for job related issues. The next step will hopefully be to limit the announcements we get from groups, clubs, organizations etc. that we would prefer not to hear from. I use rules but the emails still go into junk or deleted folders. Perhaps there's a way to totally block someone so the email never even gets to us? That would be wonderful.
28. No interest and not part of my job. Thankfully these list servs were set up a few years ago to stop those who feel entitled to reply to all and disrupt those of us who need to check emails frequently for job related issues. The next step will hopefully be to limit the announcements we get from groups, clubs, organizations etc. that we would prefer not to hear from. I use rules but the emails still go into junk or deleted folders. Perhaps there's a way to totally block someone so the email never even gets to us? That would be wonderful.
29. could never get on it !
30. Already overwhelmed by e-mail notices
31. The mean and destructive discourse wastes my time and saps my energy.
32. I am the appointment secretary at Health Service. At present there do not appear to be any for me to join.
33. I am not on the main listerv because all of the junk and unrelated topics that fill up my inbox
34. I was on the Listserv for a while, and then one day I stopped receiving emails. I don't think I ever actually opted out.
35. I go on and off the AcademicUsers listserv. I am currently on it to receive digests only. I often cannot stand the diatribes and ad hominem attacks that are not part of academic debate, but are just name calling. There have been instances of nasty remarks made to me personally, and then when I have objected I am told I am an enemy of academic freedom. The behavior of a few is killing the list.

36. I did subscribe to AcademicUsers, but I thought that the signal to noise ratio was quite low.
37. In terms of students, I did not realize I could subscribe?
38. I do not really understand what a listserv is. I feel that if I subscribe to one I will get countless e-mails of junk.
39. I would prefer not to be subscribed to the listserv, however, I feel that I must keep my pulse on what is being said.
40. I do not have time to read all of the listserv discussion.
41. I just get whatever announcements come up on the main outlook e-mail service. I am not such a computer person that I would want or be interested in other listservs. Most of the opinions that used to be on the campus e-mail were just drivel anyway. I don't have that much time to waste.
42. I have found in the past that listservers are most often dominated by a few individuals who write lots of messages...most often messages about which I either have no interest or about which I am at odds with the long-winded. This leads to a monumental consumption of time - even trying to decide which to erase without examining. A digest format is somewhat more acceptable, but that too can consume large portions of time.
43. Too much personal crap aired on the listservs.
44. For a time, I opted out of the academic listserv. I joined again thinking I might be missing some relevant information. I now remember why I opted out in the first place. The list is monopolized by a handful of faculty members who seem to have to comment on everything whether work related or not. Obviously, these individuals have way too much time on their hands. I also object to someone constantly posting articles from various newspapers and other sources that support his particular view. This is not supposed to be a news service. I think that there should be a separate list for these people, who may then email each other ad nauseum until Doomsday and leave the rest of us in peace.
45. I found all the faculty bickering tedious.
46. I receive emails via this listserv but never send any out, for the simple reason that I spend an inordinate amount of time slogging through the barrage of personal opinions to find the emails that are important—notice of meetings and such. I have been tempted to not even look at the emails and just take my lumps for stuff I miss.
47. too many emails. Usually more opinion and arguments than anything useful.

12. Do you have any thoughts or suggestions you would like to make to help decide which direction ITC will recommend for the next generation of discussion and announcement methods?

Full Response

1. Hurry up and fix this thing!
2. Glad someone is working on a solution to this problem.
3. Is it possible to explore combinations of these methods? For example, a moderated blog that can be "subscribed" to via an RSS feed and/or an email digest of posts? For some types of announcements, email might be more efficient (expedient), while for others an RSS feed would be more useful.
4. Until telepathy becomes mainstream, any of the above proposals will remain woefully inadequate due to the imprecision of the written word as practiced by imperfect people, many of whom believe they are perfect.
5. I'd like to see a clearer distinction between Discussions on the one hand and Announcements and Event Information on the other. I'd like to receive information about everything happening on campus without also receiving rants and cut/pasted articles. Thanks for all your work on this project. Many of us appreciate it very much.
6. the list serve as we know it should go--we need something that doesn't clog up our e mail system.
7. Review the civility statement on listserv that is currently under consideration by the Faculty Senate.
8. A far more informative CCSU home page with options would be a start.
9. A moderated forum or listserv is likely the best answer. HOWEVER, if we did this we should discontinue the unmoderated version. If we continue to have the unmoderated version, we would still have to keep up with it. This is not an issue that deserves a "both/and" solution.
10. Why do some questions end with a red asterisk and some not?
11. Please do something to allow those of us who just want to get announcements to not have to be subjected to the other nonsense on the current listserv. It is extremely annoying to try to read through my e-mail and have to delete 20 or 30 e-mails a day from (always the same) people who are just chatting or spitting. It is extra annoying when I'm travelling and have limited access to e-mail. People don't seem to understand that freedom of speech does not mean that other people are required to listen. Let Ben Sevitch, Sadu, Jerry Duquette, and all these other people with too much time on their hands have their own private forum, blog, or whatever, and leave the rest of us in peace.
12. I would like to be able filter out some individuals using the campus users listserv who I feel are disrespectful of others via my junk mail box. I love free speech, but unlike speaking in public where I have the option of avoiding certain speakers- I want a way to exclude those people on our listserv from my personal mailbox.
13. Don't get too excited about the small handful of faculty whose messages create the most controversy. They are, in fact, few and far between. It's a real mistake to assume a loss of faculty civility or political bias when the obnoxious contributors to those debates can be counted on the fingers of a single hand.

14. See comment above regarding requiring answers to questions. Why do survey administrators insist that people answer questions that respondents think are irrelevant, poorly worded, not understood, . . . ? The survey is about electronic communication; the survey itself illustrates the some of the frustrating limitations of electronic communication.
15. First of all, I filled this out once then hit back and my answers were erased. Secondly, I am not a good candidate for this survey because I am not interested in a lot of communication on campus. I certainly am not interested in hearing the opinions of faculty about issues unless I choose to attend a talk in person. I have no complaint about the amount of information I get currently.
16. Discussion should be reserved for a threaded discussion board. All faculty, administrators should get email notification by listserve of upcoming events, not moderated but with criteria for continued use by poster (university event; time and place indicated; speaker and title, etc.) Currently we have interrupt email re discussions that should be on discussion board; and many who have left the listserve with whom we cannot communicate university events; the worst of both worlds.
17. There should be a way to get announcements about all events, etc., without getting clogged by pointless discussion between individuals. I get way too much email from faculty blowing hot air and often find out about events in a haphazard way.
18. I have worked at C.C.S.U. for years, and I love this institution, but I have never seen people in general be so cruel and disrespectful in many forums, this is far beyond the Listserv. Maybe if everyone felt better about their work environments we wouldn't need to be in this position. The listserv problems are examples of greater problems that are deep rooted. Happy, satisfied professionals don't get out of control; they have more human decency and respect for all. Good Luck if you can figure this out.
19. The choice we are about to make will say a lot about us as an intellectual community. To create a space for genuine intellectual exchange, we have to eliminate invectives and spamming. This can only happen if faculty (AAUP + SUOAF-AFSCME) are willing to shoulder the burden of moderating a campus-wide listserv. Some will protest that this limits protected speech, but I think that's nonsense. The easier but less satisfactory path would create a mechanism for distributing announcements without intellectual exchange. Political and intellectual discussions would be relegated to subscriber venues. The all but certain outcome of this latter strategy is that what little intellectual discourse exists across schools and departments will vanish, because the problem of users who abuse our one listserv will become a problem in which the same people abuse many listservs and/or fora. Eventually only the announcement listserv will survive. Some people on campus will not mind if this happens, but it will be a terrible admission that we are nothing more than people who come to work, do our jobs in isolation from one another, and care not one bit about whether the campus engages in intellectual discussion.
20. I liked the list back in the day when anything could be posted; rants, opinions, personal for sale, etc.
21. get several faculty to resign or retire and your problem is solved
22. For discussions, the list server is a dead experiment. We tried. It rarely works. Let's try an unmoderated forum.
23. Keep current listservs but limit the number of times individuals can post on any given day or within a week or month. Limit Ben Sevitch to being able to insult and offend his colleagues only one or two times per day, or a certain number of days per month). Still gives him his opportunity for free speech, but not at every single moment that he wants to express it!).
24. Although moderation is a bit "Big Brother", I'd like to see a little less "heat" in some of the AcademicUsers listserve. While some level of disagreement is healthy and productive, it seems to escalate to a point where it (at the very least) borders on hostility.
25. I would be against any sort of censorship and fear that a "moderated" vehicle would equate to censorship.
26. I don't mind getting announcements about campus events or info relating to CCSU, or even the larger community. What I do not like is the ugly exchanges that go on amongst faculty and administrators (sometimes), where people demonstrate their prejudices and grind their axes. All I want is info about events and activities, and warnings if there are safety issues.
27. I would like to see an announcement schedule which breaks down the items into categories, such as:
CCSU Administrative - 1) faculty/staff, and 2) students; CCSU Academic - 1) faculty senate determinations, and 2) specific school, departmental, and discipline symposia and events; and CCSU Student - 1) recognized student campus organizations events and activities, and 2) other
28. The information in discussions was interesting, but I really do not have the time to read it. I have to limit what is necessary for me to complete my work.
29. 1) If a committee is formed to moderate, how will the positions be elected or appointed, and under whose authority?
30. I much prefer list serves over forums. Forums are too hard to keep up with -- too many threads. It is much easier to delete messages unread by subject line on a list serv if I am not interested in the topic. The current list serv -- while not perfect -- is the best way to keep the campus informed of events and issues. And while ideally people would be a bit more polite, I do not think anyone should be paid to moderate. I can't imagine there is anyone on campus with enough free time to volunteer for this task. I also think there is a fine line between a moderator and censorship. We are all adults here. Moderation by committee might solve this issue but would be time consuming and slow down the process TOO much. If someone writes something offensive, then it is up to those who are offended to see that appropriate steps are taken. It's a small price to pay for the free exchange of ideas. Thanks for asking.
31. Some of the discussion on the listserv is banal and insulting, but I do delete message I don't want to read. If the message is too long, I generally don't read it.
32. Have no email sent to the listserv from accsu account be blocked by spam filters (unless a specific directive has been set up by an individual user)
33. No, but there are a number of terms in this survey I didn't know so I just guessed. Most of us are not so savvy as to know the difference between a forum and a listserv. Perhaps defining these terms (with examples) might yield more usable data.

34. I think the listserv meets our needs for discussion of topics, though it is often abused and used as a bulletin board of hate. Moderators might be a good idea seeing as many faculty members don't understand how to moderate their own speech. As far as announcements for events, I think that iCal subscriptions would be ideal.

35. Use RSS feeds for updating people and communicating then the people can decide what RSS feeds to subscribe.

36. Re : Item 7 I do not HAVE electronic discussion needs. PLEASE create a distribution list or listserv that i can subscribe to that includes ONLY official campus announcements and can not be hijacked by those with personal opinions to share. Limit the "discussion"/rantings to another venue that I can choose to review weekly and do not have to spend my precious time deleting. And "driven by master calendar" means nothing to me...

37. I am sick of listening to the same two abusers of the system day in and day out.

38. Send out an e-mail that describes how to remove certain individuals from the listserv.

39. I believe an email listserv is NOT the appropriate venue for discussion (a decade ago maybe... now, not so much!). There are far better technologies now for supporting discussions.

40. Just Please don't force us to get "discussion" emails, and doing away with email announcements and events would be great too. Every lobby, outdoor board and bulletin board on this campus is filled with this information for those who opt to read it. However, people never remove their stuff after an event so someone from some office goes around tearing everything down, even events that haven't happened yet and even those things that make money for the university, so the use of these boards probably needs to be looked at as well.

41. Unfortunately, I think it has gotten to the point where certain emails need to be directed to a blog, where the cranks can fight it out amongst themselves and not fill everyone's email with their foolishness.

42. I am very pleased with all the information I currently receive.

43. This survey is helpful, and should be followed by perhaps a page on the web with information about how to access different communication services, how to join/opt out, etc.

44. I am uncomfortable with a moderated list, even though I think it would be more civilized. On the one hand, I want these horrible attacks on people to stop. On the other, I do not want to give up freedom to say what I want. I especially do not want the administration making the rules.

45. I would like to receive announcements of events on campus or any immediate activities that have happened. I would not use discussion topics and although I currently belong to listserv I used it only to get announcements and notifications.

47. It was hard to answer some of these questions because I'm not sure what all of these things are and how exactly they would work. The descriptions provided helped a little. It might be nice to have events put into meaningful categories--but I'm not sure what those categories would be. I get a lot of announcements for things I'm not really interested in, but it is nice to see what is going on on campus. Sadly, I have little extra time to participate in many of the events that look interesting.

48. If using any sort of MasterCalendar the information going on would need to be higher-quality/more complete. Most of the time it does not have the details that are needed. The ability to "push" information rather than relying on pull technologies (have to go visit) is essential in this decision. The greatest challenge is teaching people how to use the technology they already have rather than adding new levels (and losing more of the potential audience).

49. I believe that faculty who would like to speak to specific faculty should have the option to do so but that their comments should not have to be sent to everyone on campus.

50. I am not sure what the master calendar is? Personally I stay on the list serve to read the subject lines. Most of what comes across from the listserv is useless, not professional, and definitely not civil. Personally if there was a list serve that simply allowed the distribution of events on and off campus etc, I would prefer that. For now, I delete 99% of what comes into my mailbox.

51. It seems to me that there are some announcements that clearly are relevant to the entire campus community including some events, late openings, early closing and crime alerts. There are other announcements that are of interest to certain groups and/or individuals but it is nice for the entire campus community to know that they are going on. The present listserv is out of control with ad hominem attacks, sarcastic banter, etc. I don't care to be privy to these exchanges. It seems to me that if there are more than a couple of exchanges about one topic the issue should be moved to a blog or forum. If people abide by basic rules of respect and decorum there would be no need for moderation. Perhaps the forums could be "group moderated". Perhaps rule breakers could be flagged and after "x" number of flags would automatically be unsubscribed from the list. Perhaps there should be an announcement listserv and a discussion listserv. That way those of us who would like to see the announcements would not have to sort through all of the discussion threads as well.

52. I'd very much like to see TWO moderated listservs: one reserved solely for announcements, the other for everything else. Actually, I'd prefer THREE: one for announcements, one moderated list for discussion of academic topics, and one for all the other nonsense. But I don't have faith in the ability of a moderator, or the willingness of some of my colleagues, to keep the second list on topic.

53. I don't have time to "search" for events.

54. I am not interested in having everybody's ridiculous opinions and arguments or disgusting junk e-mails invading my office by appearing on my computer screen. I just want announcements that I need to know about concerning the university. I enjoy my job and when I am at work, I want to get work done. I'm not interested in hearing all kinds of blah, blah, blah.

55. I am curious about some of the filters described on the earlier screen. That might lead me to become more involved in campus communications. I think the problem is not a technology problem. I think the problems with campus communication are the culture that tolerates academic bullies and a lack of respect among colleagues. As a relative newcomer here, I can only suspect that this culture goes deep into the history of the institution. Technology will not stop rude people from being rude.