Challenges and Benefits of Technology

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Benefits - Faculty

- Increased interest in teaching
- Interest in experimenting with new technology
- Increased satisfaction
- Increased interaction with students

Benefits - Students

- May increase performance when interactivity is prominent
- Increases opportunities for interactions
- Is more effective with multiple technologies
- Improves attitude and confidence
- Increases mastery of work force skills
- Improves writing skills

Conditions for Benefits

- Faculty training!
- Technical assistance
- Time for faculty to learn about technology
- Faculty learn appropriate uses for technology

Features of Effective Learning Technologies

- Instant feedback from online homework and quizzes
- Easy to use
- Self assessments
- Technology is chosen to achieve educational goals
- Students have access to the technology

Do Computers Teach Better Than People?

- Computers by themselves don't teach
- Must be used properly to achieve an educational goal
- Computers by themselves will not improve bad teaching

Do Students Learn More Online Than Face to Face?

- Research on human subjects is difficult to do

- Many studies suggest that students may learn as well online as face to face

- How well students learn is associated with interaction with other students and instructors

Teaching Online Costs Less?

- Networks
- Servers
- Faculty computers
- Faculty training
- Instructional designers, technicians, graphic artists

Computers and Networks Are the Most Expensive Aspect?

- Salaries represent a bigger expense than the technology!
- If students don't learn as much, the money is wasted

All Faculty Will Teach Online?

- Some faculty will never adapt to the technology
- Some will always prefer to teach face to face
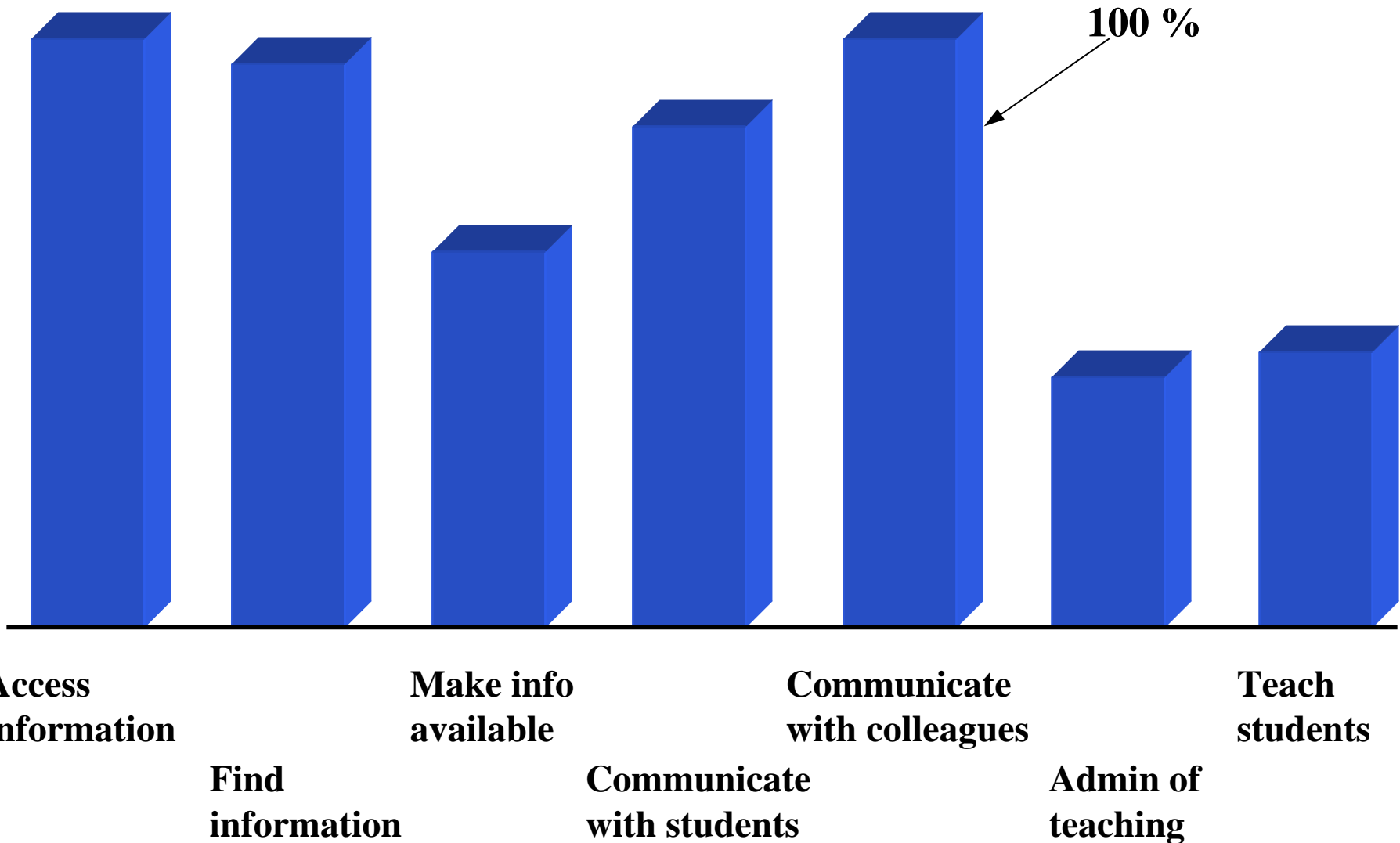
Fewer Faculty Will Be Needed?

- Technology does not replace faculty
- Technology can be used successfully by faculty and students to facilitate learning
- Because more students can be educated, there is often a need for more faculty
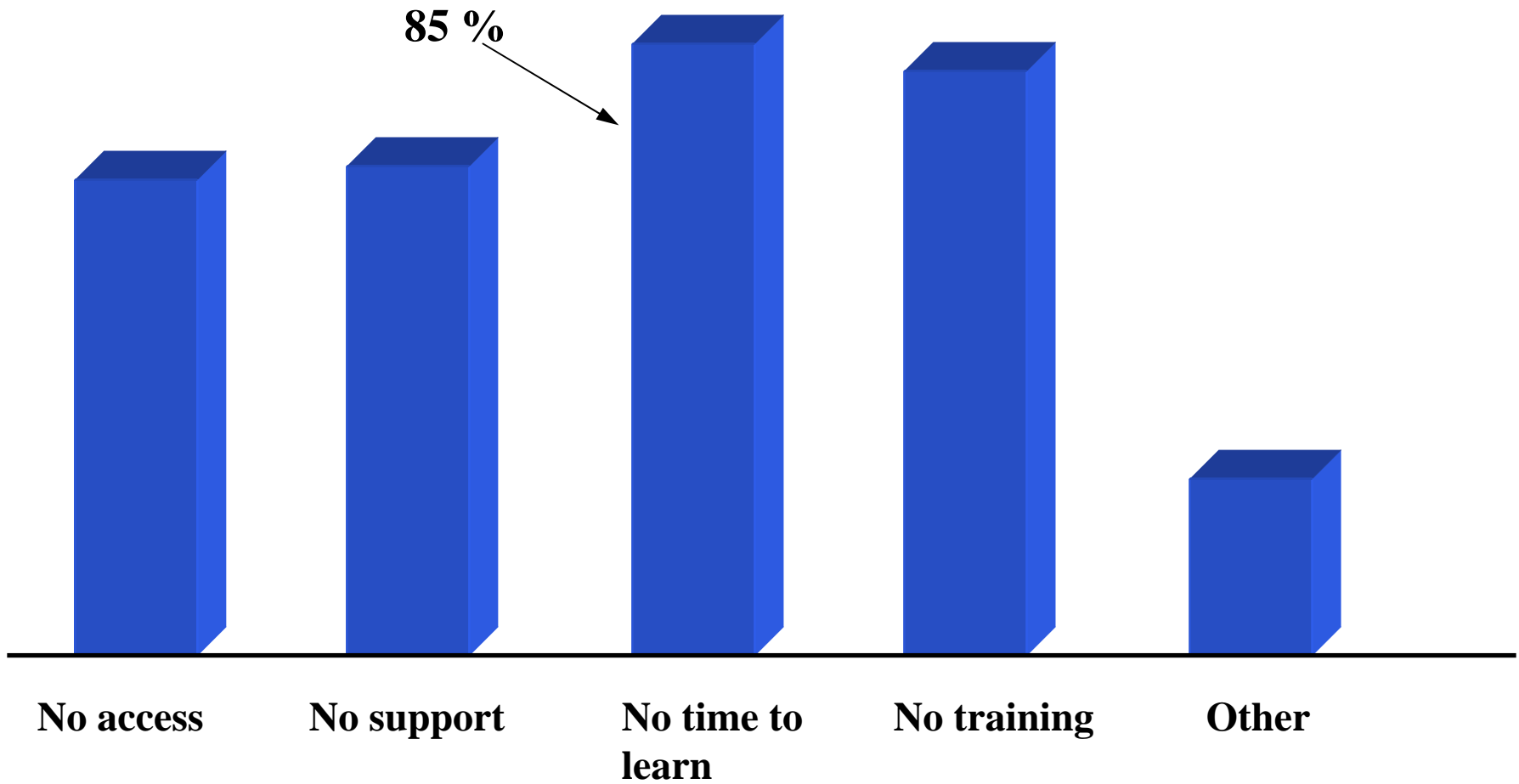
Technology Can Be…

- Difficult to use
- Confusing
- Used inappropriately
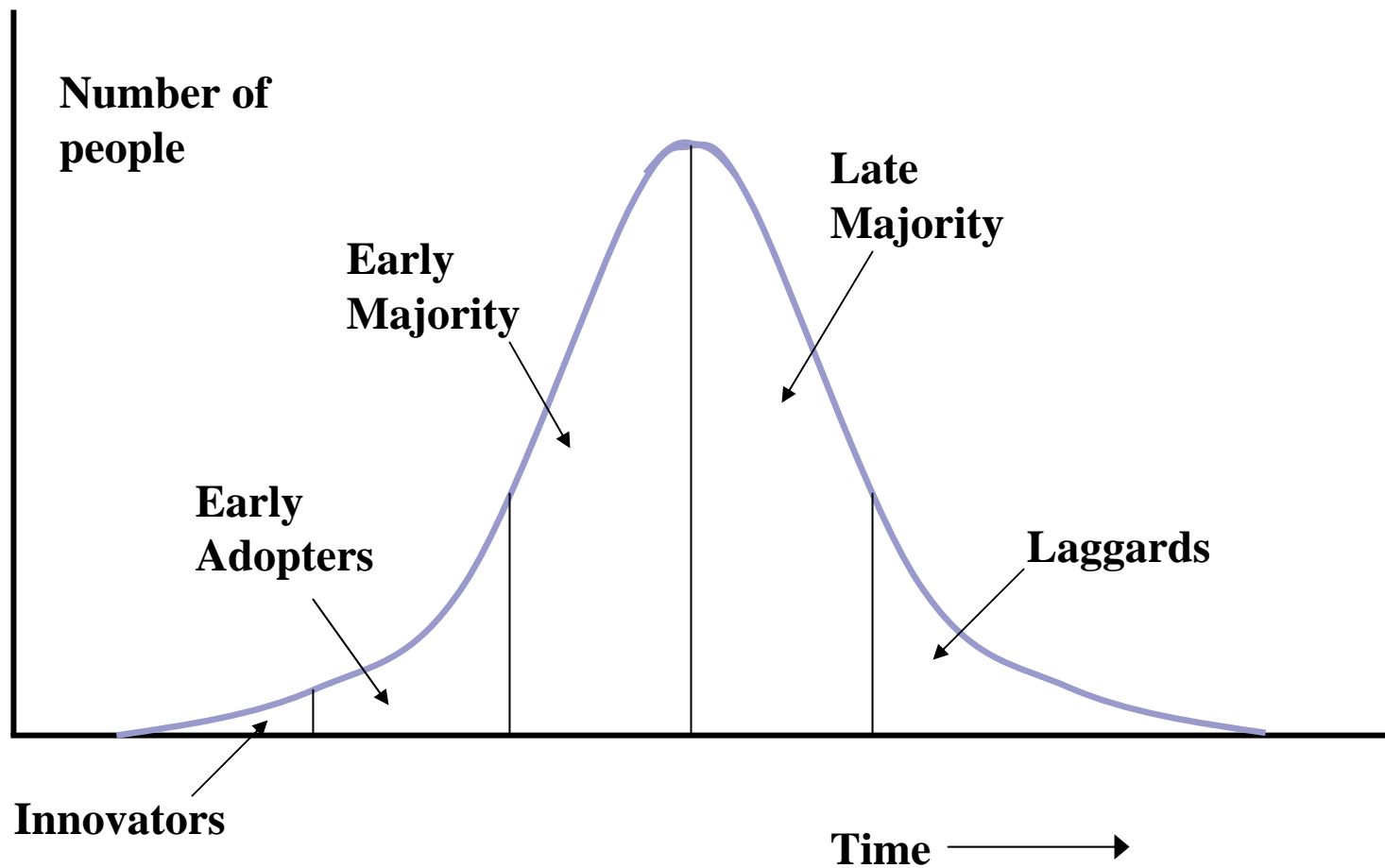- Difficult to create high quality

Computer Use

100 %

Access information

Find information

Make info available

Communicate with students

Communicate with colleagues

Admin of teaching

Teach students

Limiting Factors

85 %

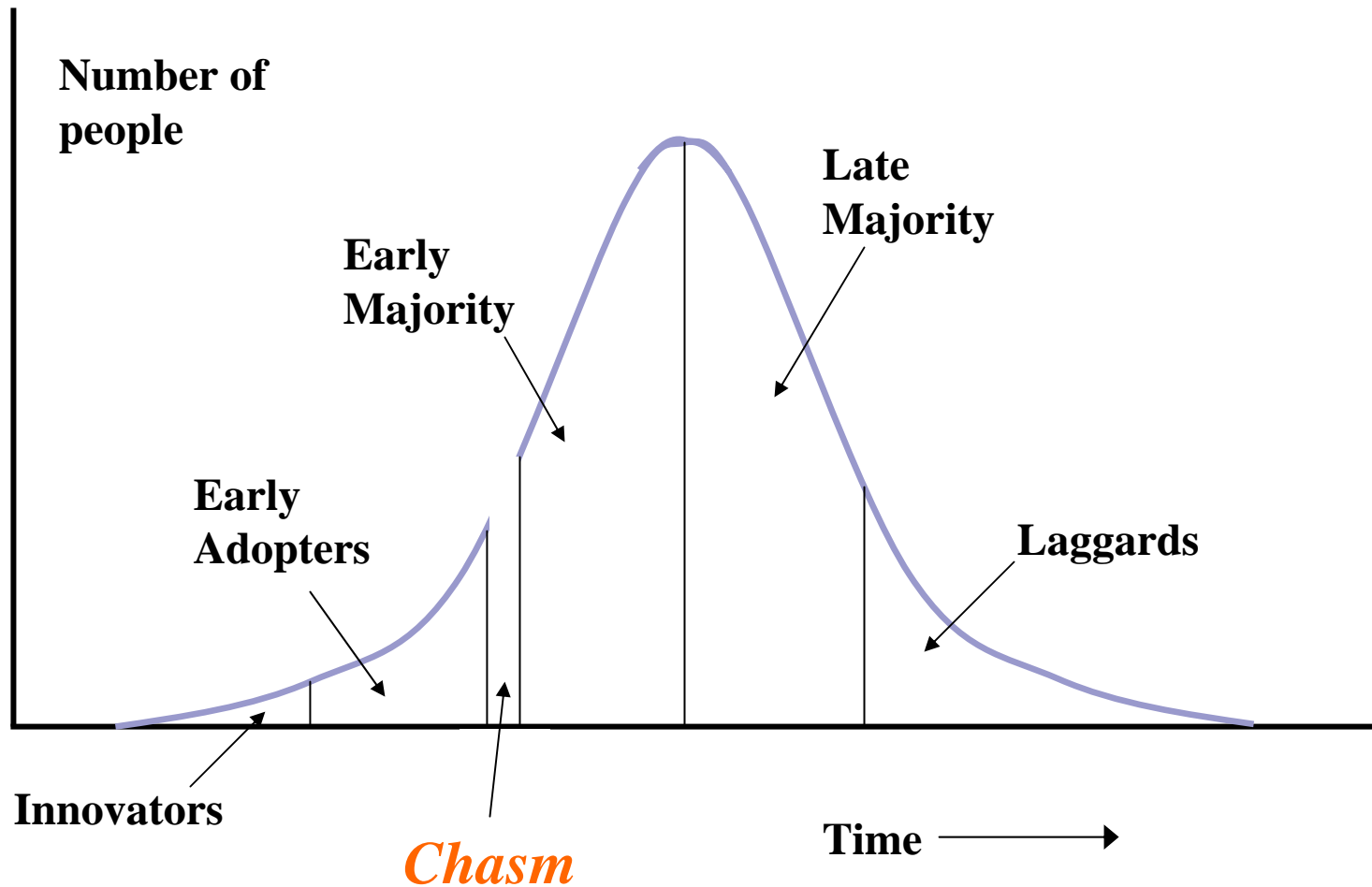No access   No support   No time to learn   No training   Other

Use of Technology For Teaching Is Low

- Use of technology for other purposes is high
- Technology is generally available
- Most faculty believe that technology is beneficial to the learning process
- Why is the use of technology for teaching low?

Technology Adoption

Technology Adoption

Adopting Technology

- Why are some faculty so slow to adopt technology?

- How can we bridge the chasm so that more faculty are willing to use technology in teaching?

Characteristics

Early adopters

- Favor fast change
- Visionary
- Risk takers
- Self sufficient

Early majority

- Favor slow change
- Pragmatic
- Not risk takers
- Need support

Adoption of Technology by Mainstream Faculty

- Provide recognition to faculty who develop online courses
- Make it easy for faculty to learn from each other.
- Demonstrate that using technology can improve learning and faculty satisfaction
- Institutional support