Distance Education

• Technical Issues
  – Problems and Solutions

• Pedagogical Issues
  – How to stimulate interaction at remote sites
  – Advantages of team teaching

• Administrative Issues
  – Getting local support for remote classes
  – How to encourage enrollment in remote classes

• Social Issues
  – Student maturity
  – Local support
Technical Issues

• Handwritten Materials
  – **Problem**: using a whiteboard is unreadable
  – **Solutions**: using the document camera if you have one or use an electronic capture device

• Complex Images
  – **Problem**: figures or a lot of text becomes unreadable
  – **Solutions**: Provide printouts or display powerpoint presentation locally

• Audio
  – **Problem**: difficult to hear students
  – **Solutions**: have multiple microphones throughout classroom or ask students to speak very loudly and slowly
Pedagogical Issues

• We must avoid “talking head” lectures
• Stimulating interaction at remote sites
  – Ask questions directly to students at remote site
  – Have questions with multiple answers
  – Have small groups work on solving a problem
• Advantages of team teaching at different sites
  – Good to have a change of pace
  – Local faculty provides support even when not teaching
  – Having a local faculty member increases enrollment
Administrative Issues

• Getting local support
  – Will team teaching be rewarded locally financially or in other ways?
  – Need to convince administrators to support remote classes even when it is difficult to fill local classes in times of declining enrollment

• Encouraging enrollment in remote classes
  – List the class as an elective in the local schedule of classes
  – Have faculty advisors “talk up” the course favorably
  – Provide information to students about the desirability for taking each particular course
Social Issues

• Student maturity
  – Older, more mature students are more accepting of distance education
  – If very young students are involved, encourage group work and group support
  – Require class attendance

• Student support
  – Have a local faculty member responsible for the course even when team teaching is not possible
  – Develop means for students to communicate effectively and in a timely manner with the remote instructor