



# PLA Effectiveness in WPI Calculus Courses: Can a Weekly Meeting Help?

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## Problem

Peer Learning Assistants (PLAs) vary in how they conduct conferences. This variation affects student performance in calculus.



## Solution

To implement weekly meetings between professors and their PLAs. These cover core objectives, soft skills & grading techniques.



## Conclusion

Professors & PLAs noticed better communication after a weekly meeting. Students observed little change in PLA teaching methods.

## Interviews

- Conducted with professors, PLAs, and Morgan Learning Center staff

## Weekly Meeting

- Provided tailored, organized agenda to each professor & set of PLAs

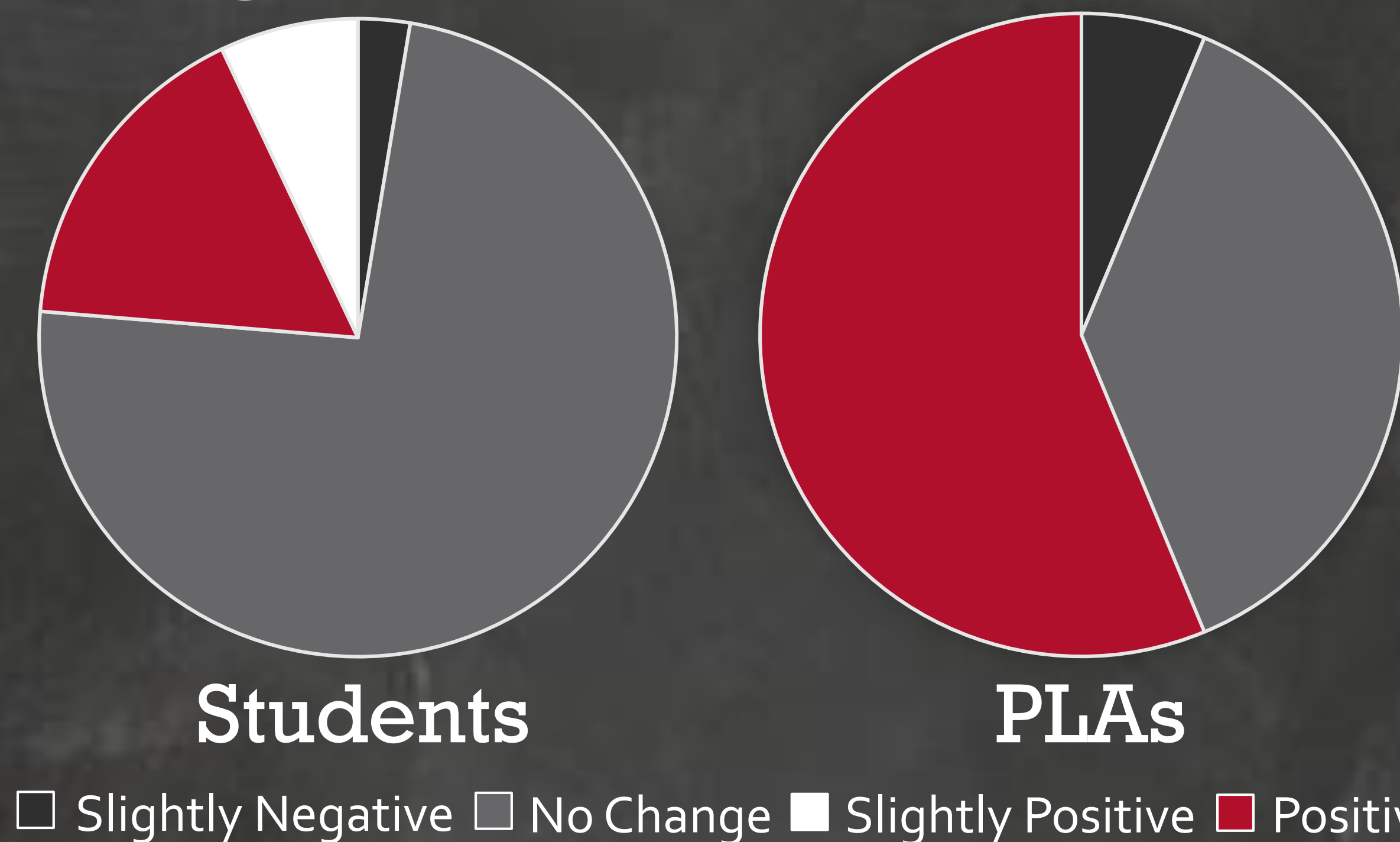
## Post Survey

- Distributed after conference to professors, PLAs, and students

### As a student, my PLA...

"...went over the material with more depth and clarity than before."  
"...seemed more focused on pacing and student participation."

### Change in Effective Communication



### As a professor...

"...I like the personal interaction while we clarified and discussed potential problems."  
"...regular meetings are crucial."

### As a PLA...

"...the meetings helped me keep track of my habits and effectively plan."  
"...I was able to recognize and fix my mistakes."

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to the WPI professors, PLAs, faculty, and students who participated in our study.

	Prior Weekly Meetings?	# of PLAs	# of Students
Calculus II Professor	Yes	5	75
Calculus III Professor	No	2	16
Calculus IV Professor	No	1	23