Email Correspondence: Reaching Out Individually for Student Success. Preliminary report.

Today’s university classes are growing by leaps and bounds – as such, students can easily get lost in the shuffle. It is getting harder to identify struggling students early on, and to encourage students who are performing well. Students in large lecture classes feel that they are part of a faceless mass, where their instructors do not care for their individual success.

To counter this feeling, we will explore the effect of reaching out individually to students, both in traditional and large lecture classrooms. We have experimented with emailing students on a personalized basis regarding their performance on assignments and exams, and expressing availability for help. We will then analyze data collected on the resulting overall performance of the students so contacted. It is hoped that this data will provide valuable insight into the effect of personal communication in an impersonal class setting. (Received August 31, 2019)