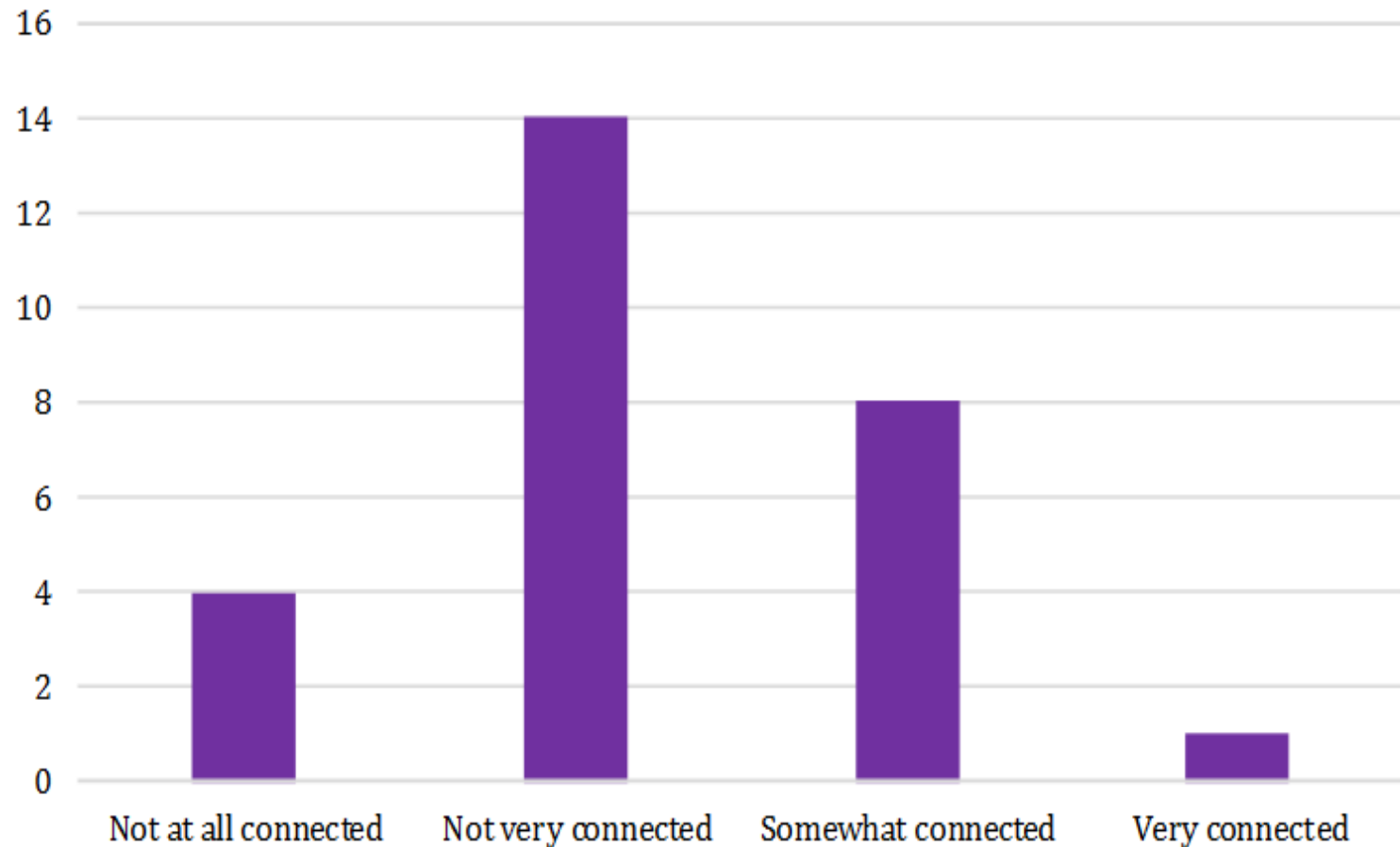# PSU-Connect App

Computer Science Capstone Project

Sponsors: Mrinalini Tankha, Kristin Tufte and Hannah Lopez

Social Connections at PSU

• Based on a design anthropology student project in Fall 2018 conducted by Hannah Lopez, Natalie Gardetto, Emily Doll, Kaila Fontenat & Cheyenne Hodgson

• Researched how PSU students foster connections on a largely commuter campus

• Research Methods: Online Surveys (27 respondents), Interviews (13 respondents), 1 Focus Group, Participant Observation, Spatial Mapping and Network Mapping, Social Media research
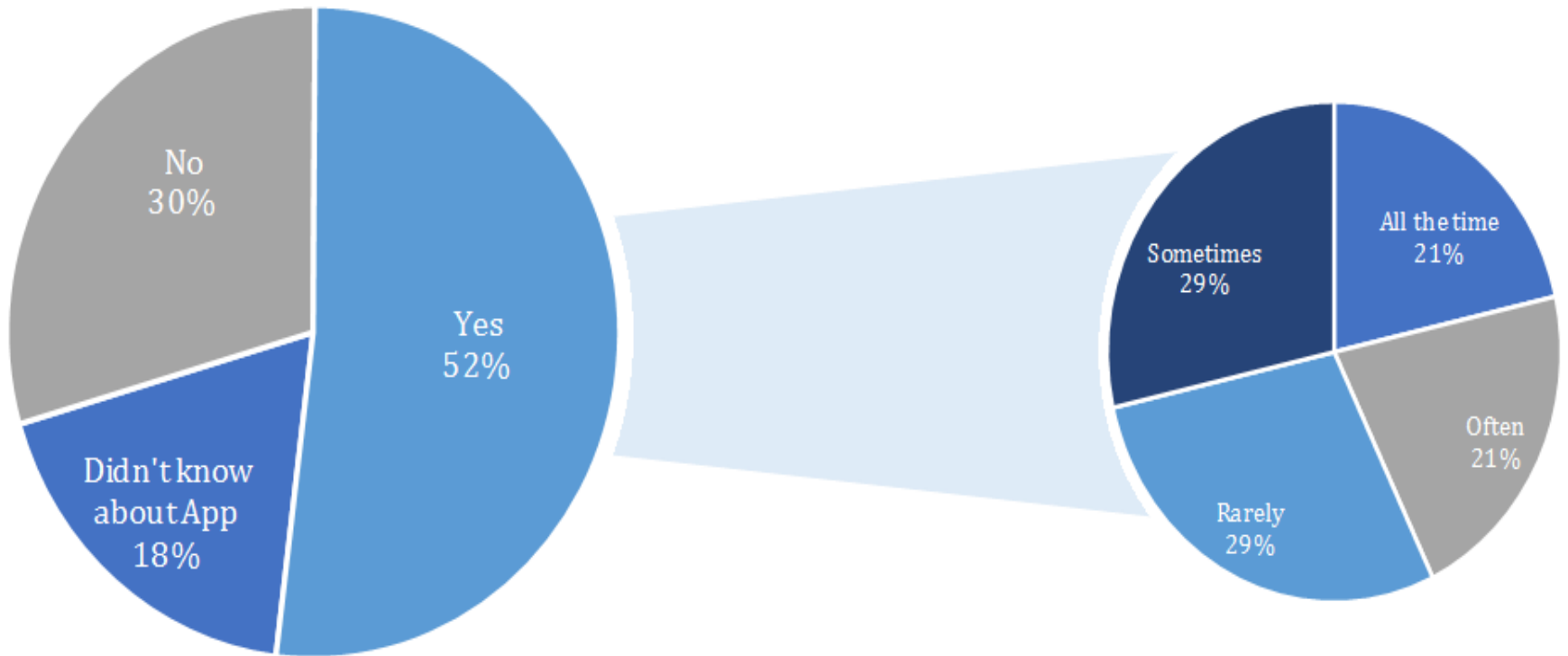
Survey

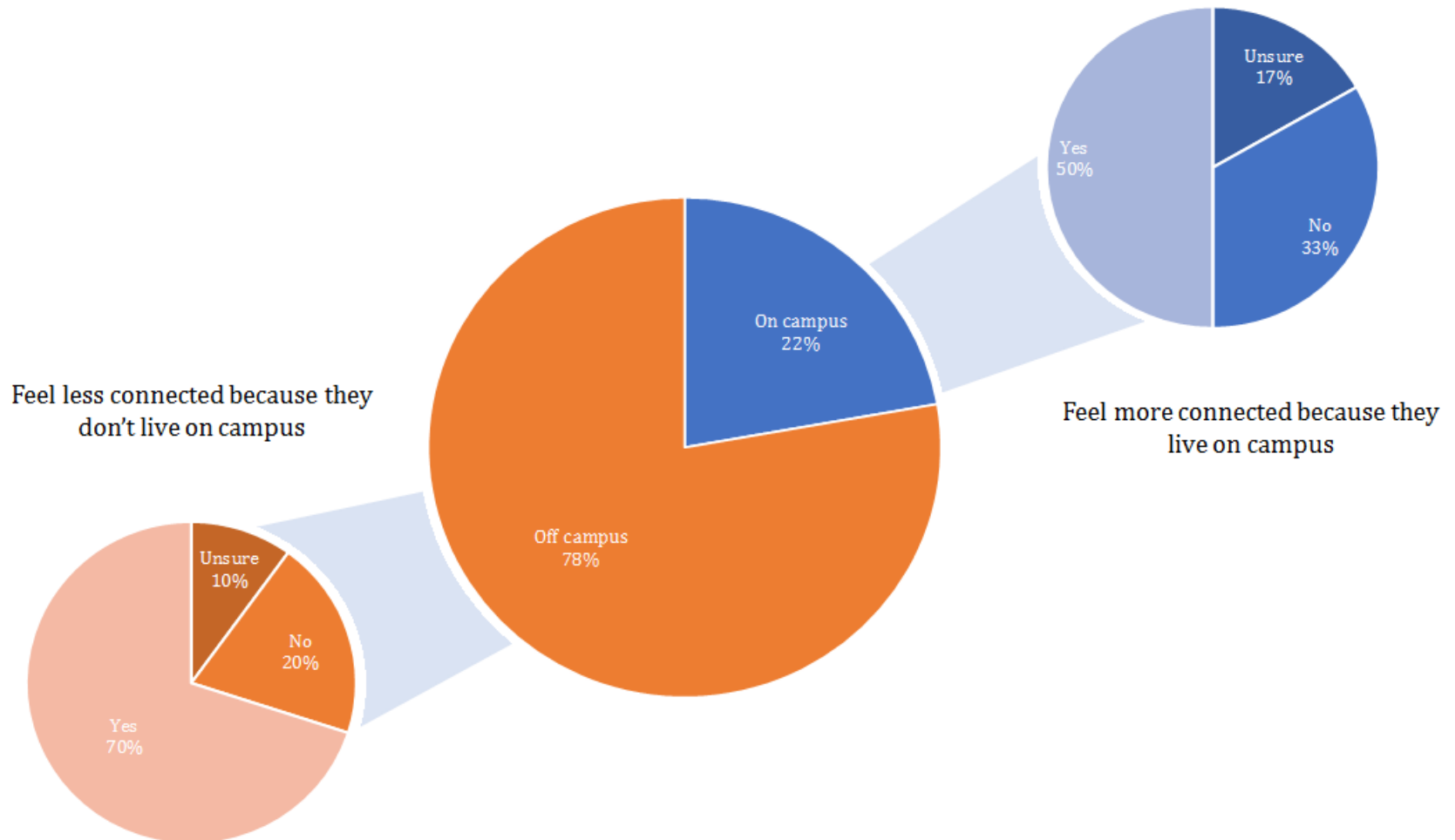How connected do students feel at PSU?

Survey

Do students use the PSU app? How often?

While 52% of survey respondents did use the myPSU app, there was no correlation between the app use of respondents and their sense of connection.

Survey

How does living on campus/commuting affect

Feel less connected because they don't live on campus

Feel more connected because they live on campus

Unsure 17%

Yes 50%

No 33%

On campus 22%

Off campus 78%

Unsure 10%

No 20%

Yes 70%

"If my professors and my department stayed...all of PSU could vanish and it would not affect me in any way, shape, form...so long as my program kept going."

"I've met more people on tinder who go to PSU than on campus"

Main Findings

- Overall, students do not feel connected to the PSU community.

- Commuter campus – diversity of schedules, long commutes to campus

- Life commitments – responsibilities of work, family and kids, extracurricular activities

- Different departments are siloed – e.g. no interaction between anthropology and computer science

- Lack of opportunities to create community even within departments with faculty and other majors – with the exception of group projects

- Lack of career development and networking opportunities

- Lack of events on campus – and VERY poor advertising of events

Recommendation

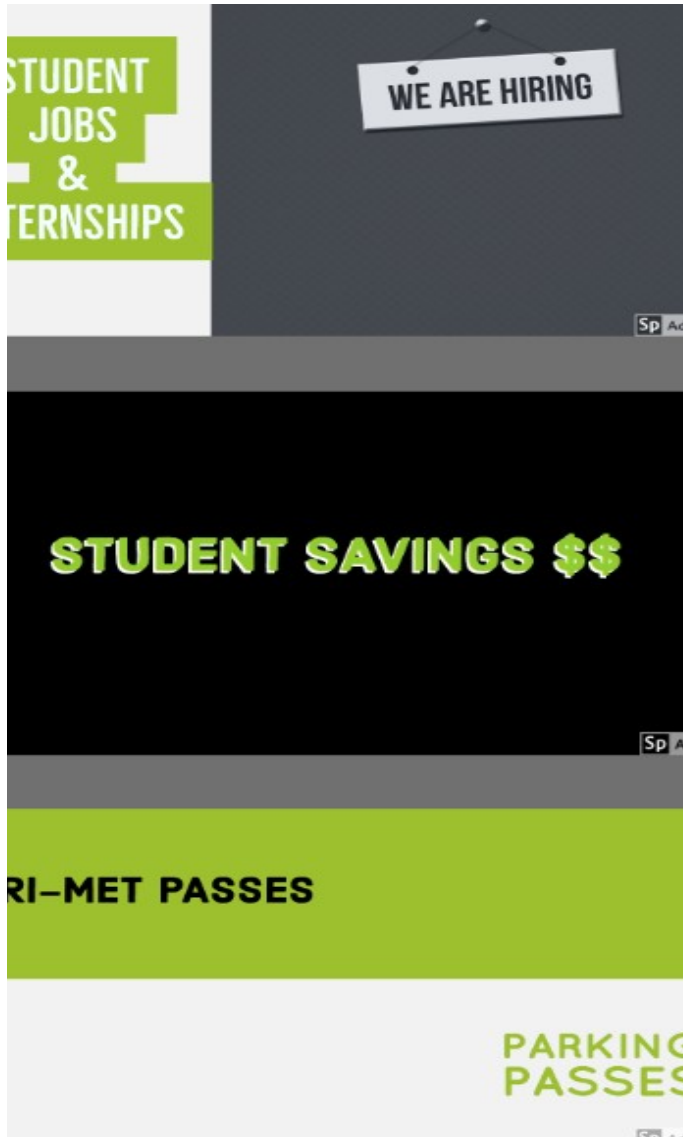Create a new PSU-Connect App with a Social Platform Approach

Student Profile

- My network – like LinkedIn - common professional interests/major
- Master PSU google calendar
- Individual virtual planner – linked to classes, meetings, department events, google maps, master

Campus Connect

- Missed connections
- Rideshare, Childcare services, Find a Roommate, Buy/Sell
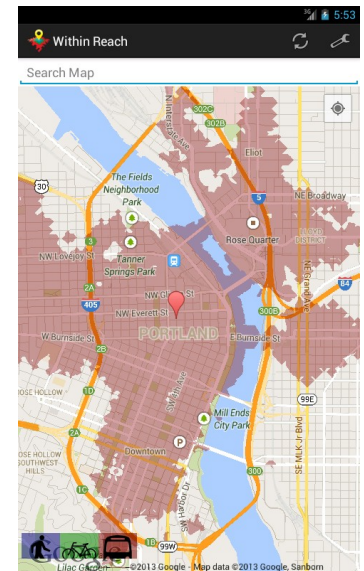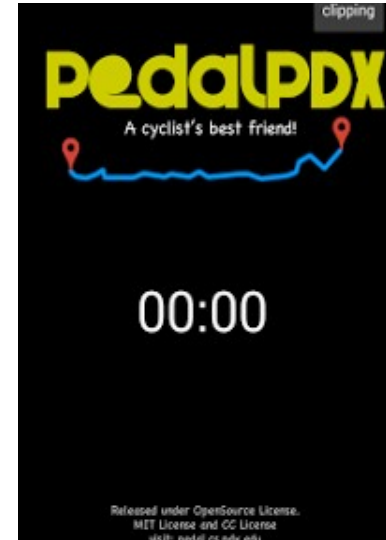- Study buddies

Student Services

- Jobs classifieds, internship opportunities
- Financial aid information and Bill Pay
- Payment function – perhaps link to Venmo or Apple Pay
- Student savings/discounts
- Commuter Passes

Technology & Requirements

- Primary Requirement: App or Responsive (mobile-friendly) web site

- Details:

  - Android, iOS or Responsive all acceptable

  - Code to be Open Source (license negotiable)

  - Team will have flexibility in choosing technology

  - Team will provide input into app/website design

- This is your Capstone project...

Sponsor Team & Engagement

- Sponsor Team: Hannah Lopez (PSU Student), Mrinalini Tankha (Anthropology), Kristin Tufte (CS)

- Engagement (proposal):
  - Weekly meetings with sponsor team
  - Slack or similar for more urgent questions
  - Periodic input from students who developed the ideas

- Schedule (potential):
  - Winter Quarter: Design app, select technology
  - Spring Quarter: MVP implementation
  - Spring Quarter: Feedback & Revisions

Contact

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