

# COMPARISON OF TWO ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS: PROMOTING OFFER OF ONLINE COURSES IN THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

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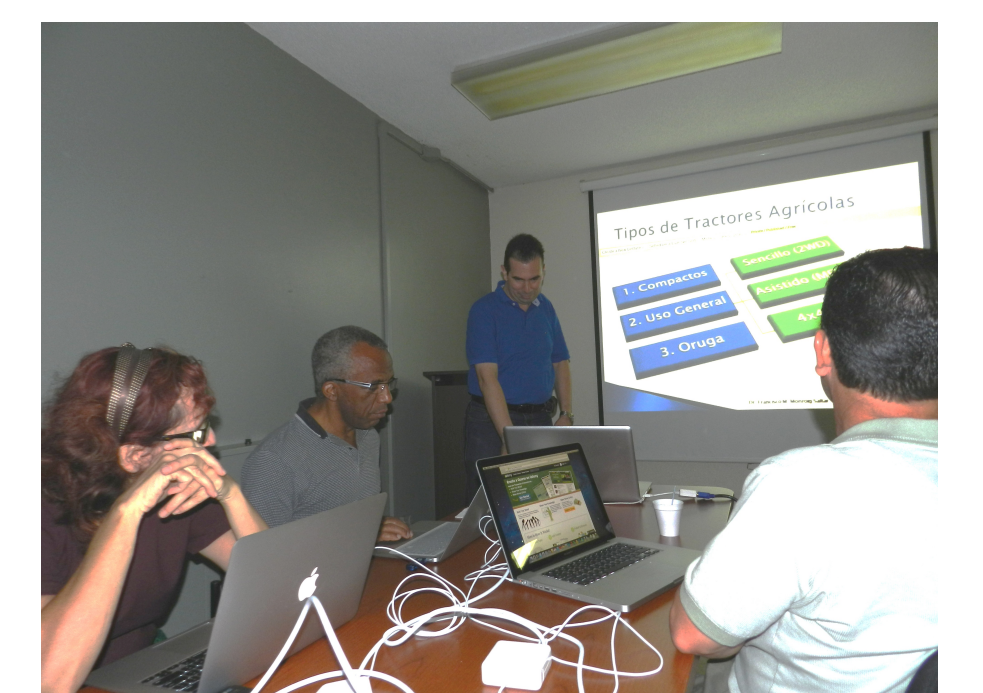
## Abstract

Based on students and faculty feedback, it was determined that there was a lack of utilization of online learning platforms in the College of Agricultural Sciences, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. Therefore, a pilot program was developed to examine two different online learning platforms. To encourage faculty involvement, a laptop computer was offered to each participant. Twelve faculty members from the College of Agricultural Sciences were trained in the utilization of Moodle and Udemy. Three workshops per platform were offered to prepare faculty for using any of them in their courses. A final survey was given to compare the participants' satisfaction with the platforms. On a scale of 1 (completely disagree) to 5 (completely agree), with an average score of 4.7 and 4.6, participants found that the topics were new and innovative for Moodle and Udemy, respectively. The average score for dynamic and entertaining workshop was 4.8 and 4.1 for Moodle and Udemy, respectively. Furthermore, when asked about the ability to incorporate either platform in their courses, the score was 4.9 and 4.0 for Moodle and Udemy, respectively. All participants, during the last workshop were able to present their courses in the Moodle platform but only one was able to do it in Udemy. In conclusion, the Moodle platform seems to be user-friendlier than Udemy for our faculty.

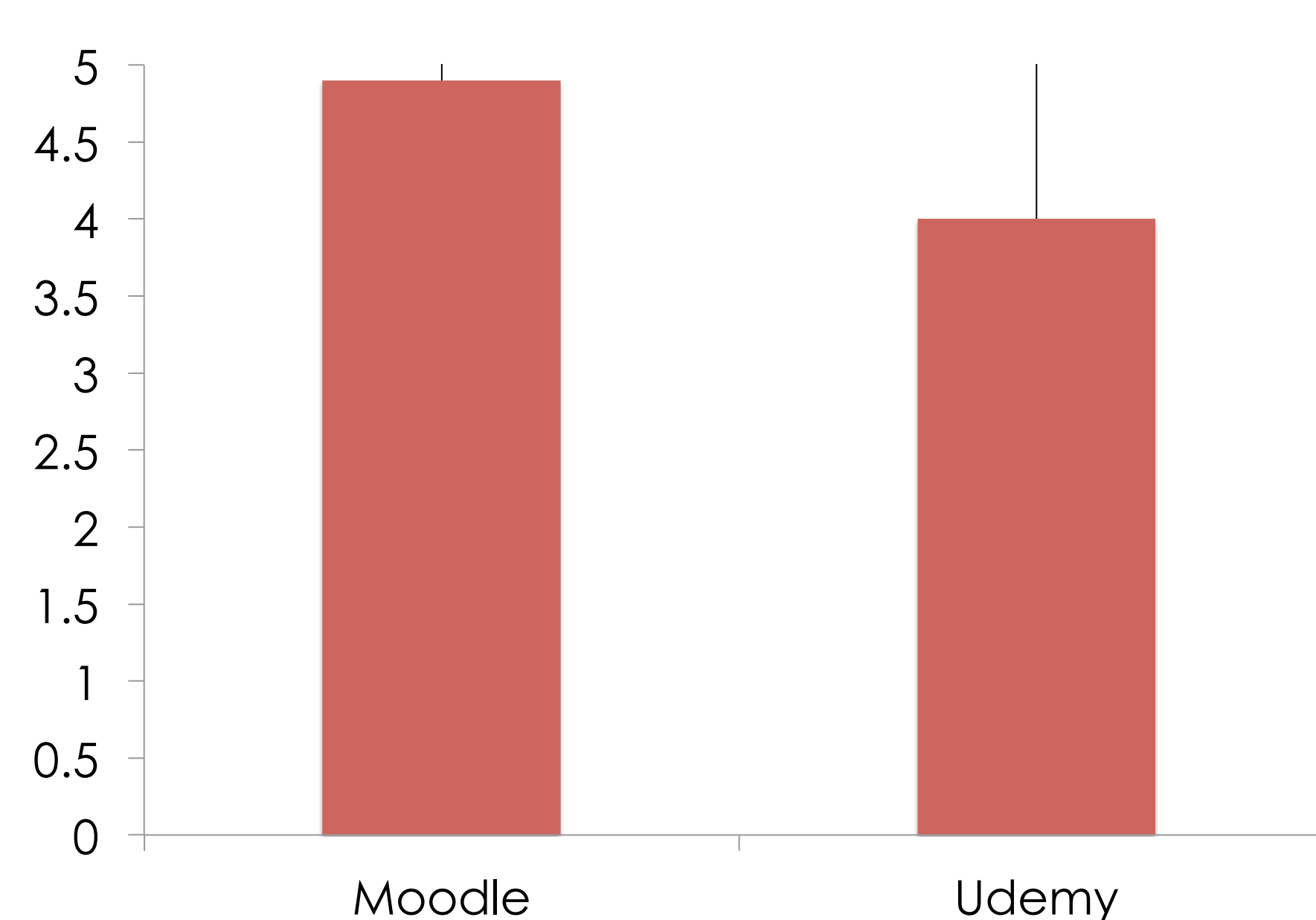
## Methods

Six four-hours workshops were prepared and given to twelve faculty members of the College of Agricultural Sciences, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez

- Three workshops per platform: Moodle and Udemy
- At the end of all workshops, participants prepared a course with the platform of their preference.
- At the end of all workshops, a survey was given to the participants to get their opinions on:
  - Likelihood to incorporate the online platform in their courses
  - Whether the online platforms presented were new and innovative for them
  - Whether the content of the workshops presented for each platform were dynamic and entertaining

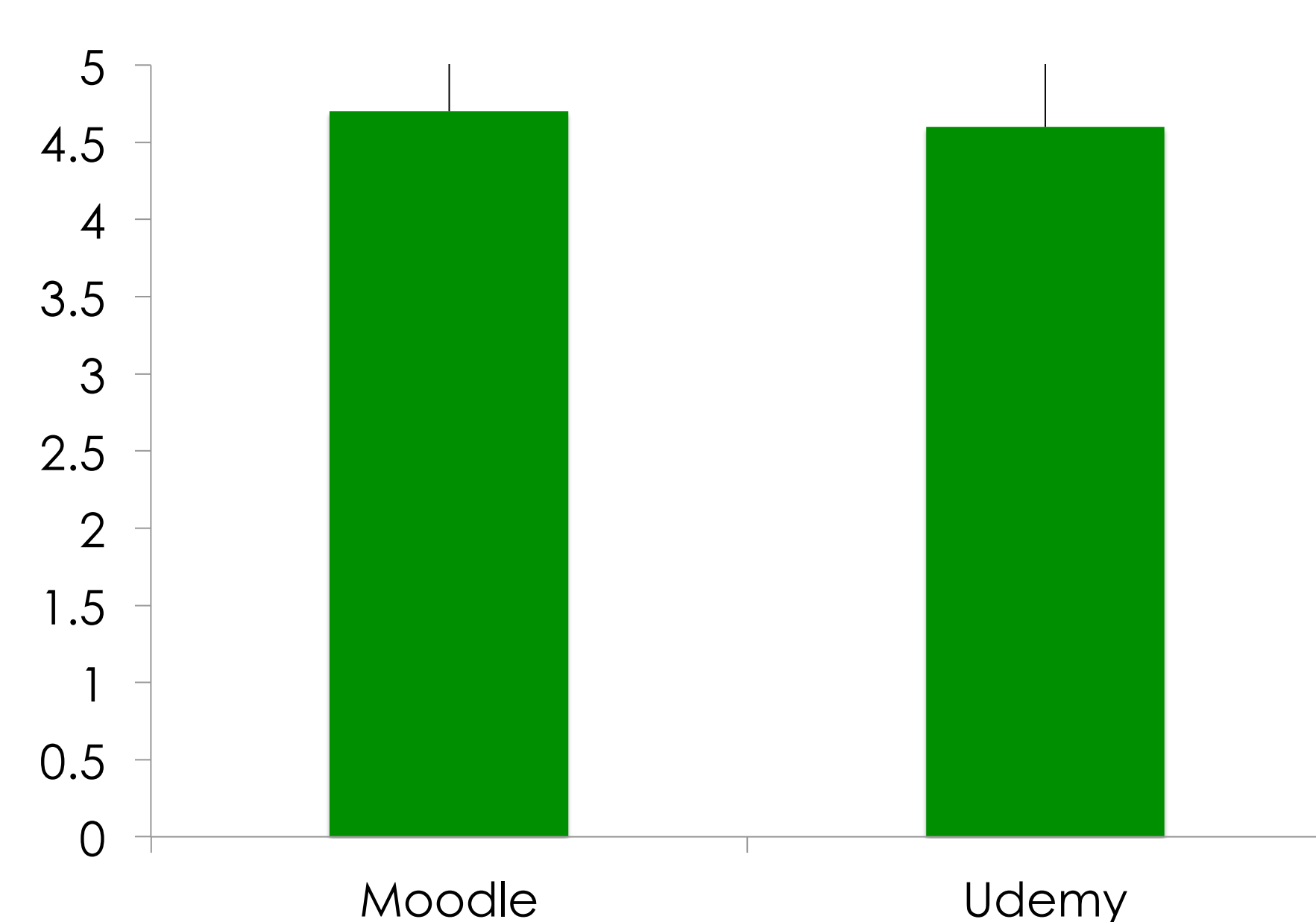


## Results



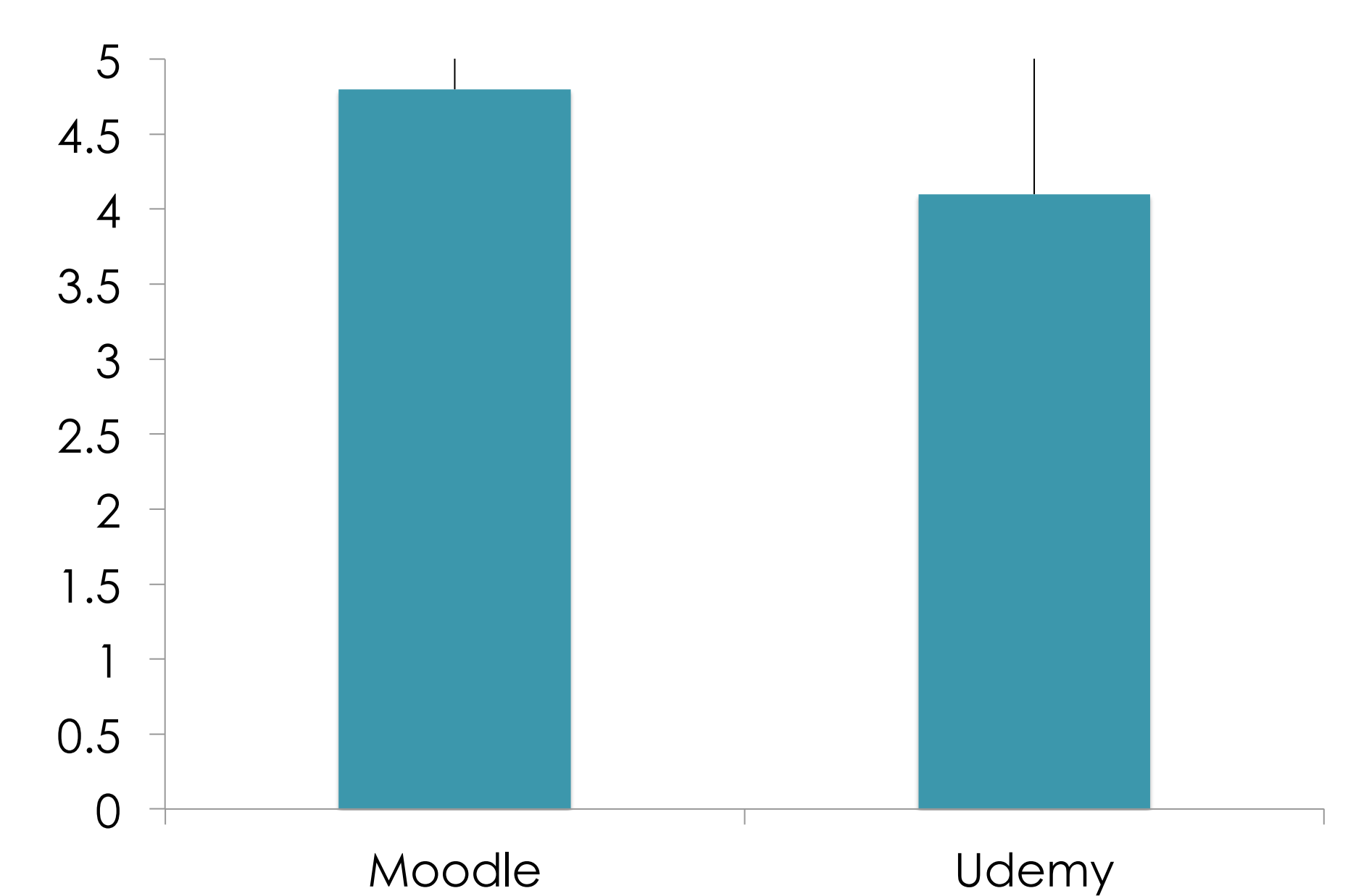
**Figure 1. Likelihood that participants will have the ability to incorporate the online platform in their courses**

Scale, 1 (completely disagree) to 5 (completely agree)



**Figure 2. Content of the workshops were new and innovative**

Scale, 1 (completely disagree) to 5 (completely agree)



**Figure 3. Content of the workshops were dynamic and entertaining**

Scale, 1 (completely disagree) to 5 (completely agree)

## Conclusions

Both online platforms were novel topics for the participants. The Moodle platform seems to be user-friendlier than Udemy for our faculty as only one participant at the end of the workshops preferred to present the course using Udemy.

## Impact

Currently, those participants are utilizing the Moodle platform, impacting 330 students per year. Presently, twelve additional faculty members are being trained in Moodle to impact approximately another 350 students.