

LMS Committee Meeting

February 12, 2010

Members present were Karen McPhaul, Dave Sorenson, Susan Horton, Janice Stuart, Becky Roehrs, Tracy Mancini, Brent McCardle, Charlene West, Megan Nicholson, and Peter Wooldridge.

Attending visitors were Tom Murphy, Wayne Durkee, Lee Bingham, Patrick Hines, and Patrick Coin.

Becky Roehrs and Susan Horton presented results of the pilot of the faculty survey. The following changes were recommended:

- Remove Q2;
- List Bb features and add a 0-5 rating scale for Q3;
 - Additions: lecture notes and course cartridge
- Consider moving Q4 to the Q2 slot;
- Include a question on attaching documents vs. building content directly in Bb;
- Add “Angel,” Blackboard Vista and Publisher hosted sites” to Q7;
- Explain what the acronym LMS (Learning Management System) stands for earlier in the survey, currently in Q9.
- Structure Q8 as a “best to least” question;
- Keep Q9 open-ended;
- Include additional question on the amount of time faculty devote to updating/building a Bb site; and
- Ask REAP to help with the deployment of the survey.

Charlene West and Brent McCardle reported on their work on the development of a Pilot Program. Their task list included a decision on the platform to be used; resources needed to train faculty, especially on multiple platforms; the timeframe for the pilot; methods to gather student feedback; a discussion of how the pilot will be evaluated; and, perhaps most importantly, a discussion of what we hope to gain from a pilot.

Charlene will pilot a new platform this summer in a class. She has asked a current class to evaluate Sakai (spring 2010). Brent will pilot a new platform in a class in Fall 2010. Peter Wooldridge will move a course from Bb to another platform in summer 2010 to evaluate how much time it takes to transition.

Karen McPhaul reported that the Costs subcommittee has begun a listing of budget items. She also reported that we currently have 150 full time faculty and 130 adjunct faculty using Bb. The committee estimates that we will need resources to train/support 300 faculty in the conversion of their courses.

The second hour was a presentation by rSmart on Sakai. The platform, as hosted by rSmart, proved to be user friendly, easily modifiable, and intuitive, and the platform included some features not currently available in our version of Bb. The presenter noted

that Sakai is not course centric, was built to be a true enterprise application, and is controlled by a Board that is made up of educators.

Karen will send out a link to a recorded web demo entitled "Moodle Support with Datatel's Intelligent Learning Platform." In it, sales people from Datatel and from Moodlerooms (a Moodle partner) describe how they are collaborating to create a system that integrates Moodle and Colleague into a single web portal.

Karen will set up a time for committee members to view the webinar together if they wish to do so.

The next meetings of the LMS committee will be March 5, 19 and 26 (10 am - noon), locations TBA.