Missouri State University Learning Management System Review, Spring 2023

<u>**Project charge**</u>
The provost's office has requested an evaluation of the current learning management system, Blackboard Learn, that is being used and supported by the university. The current contract with Anthology, the parent company for Blackboard, will be up for renewal June 30, 2023. The university will be entering into a one-year extension to allow time for this evaluation and possible migration of LMS platforms. This review will provide the opportunity to reconsider faculty and student learning management needs and evaluate possible alternatives (including Blackboard Ultra, Canvas and D2L Brightspace).

<u>**Project objectives**</u>
1) Identify the current academic community needs for a learning management system (LMS).
2) Assess different options to meet current needs while considering costs and future needs of different course modalities (face-to-face, blended, online, hybrid and HyFlex).
3) Assess the support needed to increase adoption and effective use of a learning management system among faculty and students.
4) Present a final report and recommendations to the provost from which decisions can be made.

<u>**Current LMS components**</u>
- Blackboard Learn – basic course management tools
- Blackboard Community – facilitates non-academic use of Blackboard
- Blackboard Content Management – allows content and files to be re-used and shared effectively
- Blackboard Ally – accessibility tool that improves accessibility of course documents and allows students to view documents in a variety of formats supporting different learning needs
- Blackboard Collaborate Ultra – audio and video web conferencing
- Blackboard Mobile Learn – mobile app that allows students and faculty to access LMS on smartphones and tablets

<u>**Major criteria for review**</u>
- LMS components – at minimum it includes all the current LMS components.
- Pedagogical evaluation – includes tools that will allow faculty to create an engaged learning environment that promotes deep learning.
  - Social: Provides a rich set of tools supporting social learning and allows asynchronous and synchronous communication among users.
  - Active: Allows for interactive assessment modules that result in timely and meaningful feedback.
  - Contextual: Has the capacity to cultivate contextual learning incorporating documents, links, external resources and multimedia assets, and allows students to share information online.
  - Engaging: Accommodates diverse learning preferences that increase student engagement.
  - Student-centric: Accessible anywhere and anytime to focus on content, discussion, reading, reflection and learning.
- **Learning and system analytics**
  - Grades and basic statistics can be collected and used by faculty and department.
  - In-depth data gathering and reporting on retention and learning outcomes based on configurable criteria.
- **Implementation and supportability**
  - Migration of existing courses – provides course migration or sustainable process for course migration.
  - Integration with student information systems, user authentication, enterprise systems, campus portal and others?
  - Provides 24/7 phone and email support for users with a tracking system to follow the progress of issue resolution.
  - Provides training materials, and online and classroom training sessions.
- **Costs**
  - Pricing structure and contract terms.
- **Campus feedback**
  - Survey identified users of current system on most used and most desired features.
  - Faculty committee review and build of sample courses in each system.
- **Other data collection**
  - Survey of dual credit schools of LMS used by secondary schools.
  - System data of the number of faculty and students using the current LMS.

<u>**Review process and timeline, spring 2023**</u>
The review process will be conducted during the spring 2023 semester. The following meetings and activities will be held during the evaluation and review so the academic community can provide input and receive information about the LMS evaluation and review.

Date	Action	Owners and Helpers	Audience
Nov. 29, 2022	Meet with computer services to review charge and kick-off the project	Chris Craig, Jeff Coiner, Theresa McCoy, Greg Rainwater, Nancy Gordon	LMS support services, funding sponsor, academic programs, students
Nov. 29 - Jan 27	Review procurement policies and procedures, prepare criteria and documentation for the review and procurement	Chris Craig, Nancy Gordon, Mike Wills, Tanya Smith, Stacy Rice	Procurement, provost's office
Dec. 5 – 7	Introduction meetings with potential vendors	Chris Craig, Nancy Gordon, Jeff Coiner, Stacy Rice	Provost's office, computer services, vendors
Dec. 5 – 16	Instructional Designers review vendor sandbox, identify faculty review team, and course testing	Stacy Rice, Lacey Geiger, Nancy Gordon	Faculty, FCTL, LMS administrator
Dec. 12	Review proposed timeline	Chris Craig, Jeff Coiner, Theresa McCoy, Greg Rainwater, Nancy Gordon	Provost's office, computer services, deans
Dec. 14	Announce plan and timeline to ALC	Chris Craig, Nancy Gordon	ALC, deans
Jan. 9, 2023	Discuss plan and timeline with Deans' Team	John Jasinski	Deans' Team
Jan. 11, 2023	Discuss plan and timeline with department heads	John Jasinski	Department heads
Jan. 23	Communicate LMS review to academic community, website with timeline, opportunities for input, etc.	Chris Craig, Chuck Busby, Nancy Gordon	Faculty and academic staff
Jan. 26	Faculty Senate meeting – provide update of timeline and invite feedback	John Jasinski, Chris Craig	Faculty Senate, faculty
Feb. 6 – 28	Student and faculty surveys – collect input on Blackboard experience and preferences	Chris Craig, Chuck Busby, Stacy Rice, Nancy Gordon	Students, faculty, dual credit instructors, students, LMS Review Team
Feb. 6 – March 10	Faculty user group review of LMS Sandboxes	Stacy Rice, Lacey Geiger, faculty reviewers	Students, faculty, dual credit instructors, LMS Review Team, LMS administrator
March 1 – April 6	Open online forum to collect faculty comments/input throughout review	Chris Craig, Chuck Busby, Stacy Rice, Nancy Gordon	Faculty, dual credit instructors, LMS Review Team
March 20 – April 6	On campus visit and demos from vendors	Chris Craig, Jeff Coiner	Students, faculty, dual credit instructors, computer services, FCTL, LMS administrator, ALC, department heads
April 10 – 21	Review data and input collected throughout the review and draft final report	Chris Craig, Jeff Coiner	LMS Review Team
April 27	Final report and recommendation	Chris Craig, Jeff Coiner, John Jasinski	ALC, computer services, AC, BOG