

Learning Management Systems Advisory Committee

Quarterly Report to IT Council

September 4, 2018

The Learning Management Systems Advisory Committee (LMSAC), reporting to the Information Technology (IT) Council, has the responsibility to advise the IT Council on matters concerning Learning Management System policies, standards, procedures, support services, and other activities or issues involving the Learning Management System, including determining system-wide learning management needs and recommendations for improvements.

Status updates for specific charges assigned to the LMSAC are provided below:

Migration of Blackboard Learn system to Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) hosting environment:

- Blackboard SaaS environment was put into production in March 2018 and available for all Missouri State faculty to begin developing summer 2018 and fall 2018 classes.
- The new Blackboard Learn SaaS environment was successfully implemented on schedule.
 - The new platform was used for approximately 680 classes in summer 2018 and 3,380 in fall 2018. Monitoring systems and support services are in place to quickly identify and resolve any issues.
 - A custom developed Class Dashboard system was implemented to facilitate combining class sections within Blackboard Learn. This has proven to be a popular feature, resulting in 76 sections being combined for summer 2018 and 420 sections for fall 2018.
- The Blackboard Learn SaaS environment was made available for faculty to begin developing spring 2019 classes on September 1, 2018.
- The communication plan has proven to be effective via the following:
 - News articles, briefings in the weekly Inside Missouri State newsletter for the Springfield campus and Take Note on the West Plains Campus.
 - Presentations were given to the Academic Administrators Assembly, the Academic Leadership Council, Faculty Senate, and during the 33rd Showcase on Teaching and Learning.
- Seventy Blackboard SaaS professional development opportunities have been offered since the spring 2018 semester.
 - Ongoing professional development opportunities include:
 - Blackboard Black Belt training
 - Ask the Experts open lab sessions
 - Videos and training material available via Blackboard
 - Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning's (FCTL) Online Course Development Boot Camps
 - Meetings and ongoing course development work with FCTL Instructional Designers

Web conferencing and video capture analysis:

- LMSAC members are continuing to review the products currently in use/available.
 - Products being reviewed include Zoom, Adobe Connect, Collaborate Ultra, and Skype.

Achieve more efficient uses of resources through reduction, consolidation, and/or elimination of functions and services:

- Two demos of Blackboard Enterprise Survey were presented to members of the university community. Blackboard Enterprise Survey has similar features and tools to Survey Monkey and is an entitlement within the Blackboard Learn license agreement.
- Collaborated efforts with the Bookstore to offer VitalSource, a full-featured integrated learning tool that incorporates digital textbooks, assessments, learning activities, assignments, etc.

Increase student access to learning opportunities by increasing accessibility of course content contained in the learning management system:

- This specific charge has been adopted by the President's Council on Disability. The LMSAC is aware of the plan to purchase the Blackboard Ally system and will stay well informed of this initiative.

Contribute to the success of the university's long-range plan and Action Plan for 2018-2019:

- Support academic programs and the learning community through the application of established and emerging technologies, and the provision of quality support services.
- Continue to implement alternatives to traditional print textbooks and course materials in an effort to reduce student expenses (e.g. StreamlinEd and other digital content).
- Take necessary measures to ensure the campus-including people, facilities, networks and data-remains safe, secure, and accessible.
- Provide quality communication, support, and professional development opportunities to increase employee productivity and enhance customer service.
- Continue to increase and maintain efficiencies in the university's procurement practices and general operations to control costs.
- Continue to coordinate operations between the West Plains and Springfield campuses.

Conclusion:

The LMSAC considers the work done thus far regarding the specific charges assigned by the IT Council to be successful and our remaining charges will be addressed throughout the upcoming semesters.