

Present: Stacy Anderson, Marilyn Bejma, Cheryl Cluchey, Teresa Cook, Elise Gramza, Jacklyn Hughes, Leonard Johnson, Elaine McCullough, David Nicol, Theresa Raglin, Todd Stanislav, Robbie Teahen, Michelle Teschendorf, Deb Thalner and Spencer Tower

Call to Order: 10:03 am

SUMMARY OF ONLINE WAIT-LIST PROCESS

Cheryl reported there are 870 names on wait lists currently. The question was raised if we can see how many of those on waiting lists are now in face-to-face classes. The report is a Google doc and data from it could be put into an Excel spreadsheet. Deb will look at one section and see how many got into another section.

English 321 has a great number on its waiting list, and the English department determines how many students need online classes and how many are on campus and can register for face-to-face classes. Many times there is a reason students in Big Rapids are not able to take face-to-face classes; sometimes online is their only option. Nursing is requiring students to take English 325 the first semester, and this can stop a student from moving on until that requirement is met.

This is the core of the conflict over whether we should be scheduling what students need or what students want. We will lose students to institutions that offer their needed courses online when they need them. Cheryl felt English understands the issue and does want to provide what students want.

There are differences between the people scheduling classes and what their version of when they think the students should have certain classes and English's version of when they should have those classes. English feels the 300 classes are senior-level and prepare students for careers in writing, whereas other colleges are requiring 300-level English as a prerequisite for other classes. Perhaps other English courses should be the ones required.

Cheryl reported that the wait list for summer will open on Monday, and wait-listing will be done following the same procedure as this past semester. Things may change for fall.

CONTINUED USE OF MyFSU FOR ONLINE COURSES

Deb has done some research to find what Atomic Learning modules students really need. Spence and Clyde have met and are working on this also. Deb reported that international student Sara Ansari will do research for us on what kinds of programs for fully online, social networking, etc., would be worthwhile, as well as possibly do some Captivating work.

FEEDBACK/DISCUSSION OF VONDEROSTEN SUGGESTIONS

Deb reported Robert was frustrated trying to find the right information to start his semester. He was invited to join us today but declined the invitation.

Teresa reported that two faculty members have voiced their dislike of BlackBoard 9.1 to her, yet Deb has had the opposite experience with one of her faculty. It seems those who have had extensive experience with the former version of BlackBoard are unhappy with the new version. Michelle gave feedback while in training, but she's not sure if it ever got back to BlackBoard.

Jackie explained that we are going from a really old system to a really new one. Web CT was bought out by BlackBoard, and BlackBoard takes what it can from CT and uses it. BlackBoard will probably not put a real-time e-mail system into its program. Students must go into the program to check for messages, and it is also faculty's responsibility to check for messages.

Jackie has put in requests for enhancements to BlackBoard, and she will e-mail a link to us to see the list as well as a link to where issues may be voiced.

One of the biggest issues is the disappearance of something to alert users that they have new notifications. There are notifications in the programs, but they are not on the front page as in the former version. If faculty need help with notification, please contact Jackie.

Deb felt we need to remind ourselves when using BlackBoard to ask if there is another way to get something done. If we'll tell Jackie what we want to do, she'll try to show us how.

Robbie is sending out an e-mail university wide on Monday, and posting it to the website, that does ask for feedback. Every person enrolled in the training was assigned a mentor (424 participated in training, with only 126 using it currently). Communication may not have been as great as hoped because trainers were fully involved with keeping up with the sessions. Those who went through training were given a manual, BlackBoard on Demand, for reference. People may not be accessing all their resources.

Messages do need to be sent multiple times, in multiple venues. Deb wondered if there is a more central point to resend campus-wide notifications.

Faculty will be asked to plan ahead for fall, as there are 1100 courses on Web CT and this will take some time. We have to update all our information online to change from FerrisConnect to BlackBoard.

Spence reminded the group to spread the message at college and department meetings. Jackie reported that 95 early adopters will be asked if their names may be used in a list of people available to help faculty with questions.

Hopefully, people trained will take the initiative to use the program while training is still fresh in their minds. We need to make suggestions for enhancements, but also get past the idea that BlackBoard will respond to our every request. It may be helpful to bring in some of the resisters, especially the loud resisters, and address their problems so they will be converted and be just as vocal about the positive aspects of BlackBoard.

Jackie reported that a mobile version is being worked on and the product will be shown on Wednesday in FCTL.

Michelle reported that communications have been good in CAHS; users communicate with each other and help each other with problems. Robbie mentioned that faculty know they do not have to ask only their assigned mentors for help, and mentors have been urged to be more aggressive in reaching out.

Todd reported that Quality Matters will be helping in the transition. Sheila MacEachron is the person to contact now; an instructional designer is being hired to handle things in the long run. One faculty member is going through the Quality Matters 2-part training at this time and will be able to review

programs when training is completed. Mary Alkire is teaching Faculty Engagement in an Online Class, being offered through FCTL.

At the next Deans' Council, Robbie will ask the deans to query their faculty on what they want that would be helpful.

Jackie and Robbie assured us that problems are being listened to.

ROUNDTABLE

Stacy reported that some colleges have or are working on guides that include everything needed to know to teach online.

Deb reported that there is BlackBoard training available in Lansing on Saturday, February 4.

Adjuncts are being encouraged to use BlackBoard tools, especially when campus may be closed.

Robbie reported that it would be essential that FSUS be the place where we use an attractive, common template. She will mention this to Bill Potter. This is the perfect place to assure students are aware of the basics. Training is available for anyone teaching FSUS.

Robbie reported that John Urbanick's concern within MyFSU is that a tab needs to be deactivated. It should be deleted with a warning, "This is not an option."

FAB with Quality Matters is creating a better-looking Banner. Shells will be set up the way they should be – those who want to customize, can.

Cheryl reported a lot of confusion when working with wait-listed students of their understanding of what is Learn, BlackBoard, and FerrisConnect.

Deb concluded by asking everyone to please go back to their colleges and communicate what the resources for BlackBoard are.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 2, 2012 10:00 to 11:30 am CSS-302

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bejma