

Present: Stacey Anderson, Enid Carlson, Ellen Haneline, Bill Knapp, Leonard Johnson, Elaine McCullough, Dave Nicol, Robbie Teahen, John Urbanick

Absent: Kristen Salomonson

Faculty Online Services Survey

Jennifer shared the disaggregated results from the Faculty Online Services Survey.

Online Orientation

Cheryl announced there is an online orientation webinar that people may want to participate in on May 6. Currently it is scheduled to occur in ALUM119. It addresses logistical issues for students taking online courses.

New EMAT Members

EMAT members reviewed and discussed the applications and came to the decision to invite Paula Hagstrom from the College of Allied Health Sciences and Spence Tower from the College of Business to join the advisory team for the academic year 2010-11. Robbie will send a formal acceptance to their proposals so they can be present at the next meeting on May 14.

Course Management System Update

Bill Knapp chairs a task force that is a subset of FAB with a few additional faculty who are not on FAB but teach a lot online. The task force members are Mary Holmes, Doug Blakemore, Susan Hastings-Bishop, Rebecca Sammel, Kim Hancock, and Meegan Lillis. Their charge is to review open source and proprietary course management systems along with the new version of Next Generation (Blackboard) and provide a recommendation to FAB, EMAT and the Ferris community what Ferris should strategically do upon renewal of our contract with Blackboard in the summer of 2011. At this juncture, they have reviewed Sakai, Moodle, Desire-2-Learn and Blackboard (Blackboard is the number 1 provider for learning course management software in the US). They each had two systems to review. All provide the basic tools. However, Blackboard is the only one with a rubrics tool. Respondus works with all of the the products. Studymate appears to work. They were not sure if the lock down browser works with all the products. SafeAssign definitely doesn't as it is a Blackboard product. If Ferris goes to another system, it will need to go back to using Turn-it-in. All integrate with Banner, but no all necessarily with Luminus (MyFSU).

Open source is dependent upon a community of developers in other institutions. Sakai and Moodle require collaborative relationships with other developers in other institutions. When evaluating these products it is necessary to look at support costs and where they would exceed the annual licence fees that come with a proprietary software product. Some institutions solve this problem by outsourcing the development /support costs for open source software products, which also provides for them 24/7 support for faculty and students. Thus far, the testing has all been done on the front end, or end-user side of using the products.

Next step is to test the backend of the products. This requires an installation and configuration with the database. Bill believes he will be able to have a draft report by the middle of May with the finished report by the end of May.

John thinks it will be important to provide a presentation to the University at least from the end-user perspective. He also questions what is Ferris trying to solve in reviewing these products. What's the issue? Last FAB meeting very vocal 98% of the time the system works fine. F.C. will need to change by 2013 regardless because Blackboard is going to stop supporting the Vista product. Last time it took 2 years to change. Where is Ferris going to place its investment – in proprietary software or in open source? Proprietary software means we have very little control over our product and when we upgrade. Open source offers a lot more options and flexibility. You can decide when and what to upgrade.

