

Present: Marilyn Bejma, Cheryl Cluchey, Elise Gramza, David Nicol, Andrew Peterson, Michelle Teschendorf, Deb Thalner and John Urbanick

Call to Order: 10:02 a.m.

We welcome Mary Holmes as a guest today.

BLACKBOARD 9.1 STATUS

Mary reported that 175 faculty have been checked-off of the 470 that have received training, leaving about 254 to still attend a check-off session. She is hoping to see a good number go to the sessions in May so that there will not be hundreds of faculty trying to schedule their sessions in August.

Mary distributed cards showing the current check-off session schedule with dates from May through August. These cards have been distributed across campus.

Michelle reported that after requesting her adjunct teachers inform her when they have gone through the training, she has heard from only one so far.

STATUS OF CONVERSION

Mary reported that Student and Faculty Orientations had been removed in error, and she is trying to locate them in an old class so she can restore them. Orientations show how to use FerrisConnect for those who are completely unfamiliar with it.

An engagement has been set up between Sungard and Blackboard to do an integration through Learning. We are at the point where we are looking at the configurations for the integration. It will take all of our fields from Banner and bring them into Connect. We must decide how we want everything to look after it is converted. There will be a meeting on May 21 to start everything running. We are on track for the July 1 timeframe to request course shells. Right now, setting up shells will have to be done manually.

Elise asked if she should continue to put Learn where she used to put Vista when actually building a new course. Mary will have to check with Vista.

Mary is going to service pack 8, and she has had very good comments from faculty when using this in test. The side bar is no longer visible; and if the user is unaware of the need to hover over the area, the side bar will never open up. The template is pretty close to what we have had; e-mail and messages are on it. There is no one common logo throughout; different areas wanted their own banners.

Jackie is working on having things out for the July 1 date.

Mary felt there is better reporting with the new service pack, although she has not had time to look at it.

We have 118 summer courses, 64 of which are online.

Some things still need to be decided, such as the icons. How can students see the old Vista courses? She is working on adding some hot links that would connect to Learn, rather than having three bulldog icons on the screen, which seems too confusing.

Cheryl commented that in making calls to students to fill the summer classes, she could not tell them if they should go to Learn or FerrisConnect to check on their status. Mary reported that instructors have been told in training to contact their students and let them know what to use.

A university-wide notice from Mary's group went out yesterday, bringing everyone up to date on summer training, SP outage, course shells for fall, and other events and check-offs through May 15. John complimented Mary on the very good job she did with this communication. In addition to the university-wide notice, Mary sent personal notices to people in Learn. Deb felt this would be a good communication to send to all adjuncts also. Mary used the mailing lists in the Learning Center that are intended to go to all faculty. Deb thought Mindy Baumgartner could send this again to all college secretaries for distribution, and Mary will contact Mindy to request this go out again on Monday.

STUDENT READINESS POLICY

Deb reported that the student-readiness pilot will be tested by TAC. There are 900-plus students registered for summer classes, with a two-week window to assess their readiness. The good news is that faculty have been really receptive to this. Many will give extra credit for it; only two have asked us to please exclude their students, one with advanced students in the Dental program, and the other's group will be in Europe. All other students are being encouraged to take the assessment by Deb, who may look into awarding some small item at completion.

Mary reported that the SmarterMeasure building block has been connected. Our trial of this product will end on May 31; but if it proves to be valuable, we will purchase it. The number of students going in through the website and those going in through the course can be tracked.

John asked how can we determine if this will be advantageous to us, and Deb commented that currently the plan is to do the course shell, then tell how much has a student done, if they completed the assessment, etc. We will survey those same students and faculty to determine what was valuable and what was not. This probably will not be available for fall. Deb and Melissa will have to track everything during the summer pilot, so she does not feel this is feasible for fall.

John reported that Dr. Potter wants to install MapWorks this fall. This is a retention tool that tracks students' activities to try to do early recognition of trouble to take action. If students take online classes, this will be in there for them also.

Elise commented that University College may be the best home for an assessment tool.

Michelle voiced some concern for all the students she teaches online who never come to orientation, and Cheryl commented that her group plans to incorporate the assessment into the online orientation and then make it mandatory.

STATE AUTHORIZATIONS

Deb reported that Robbie has been in contact with other states to see if we can get approved to recruit in their jurisdictions.

NEXT E-MAT RECOMMENDATIONS TO TACKLE

Elise felt we need to have the final approved proposal in front of us to determine what we should address next. Deb commented that all 11 recommendations have been approved by the Academic Senate; the details for each have not.

Deb will bring copies of the approved recommendations to our next meeting. We are all asked to report on the status of what has been done on each recommendation when we meet again, and Deb will send an e-mail to our group requesting this.

Andy reported that Todd is looking at what things his group should have on its fall calendar. John is also keeping his people apprised of what is coming down the road.

OTHER

Deb reported that May 17 is our next and last scheduled meeting. She asked if we want to meet only once a month during the summer, and the group agreed this would be good. Marilyn will send out meeting invitations.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 17, 2012 10:00 am to 11:30 pm CSS-302

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bejma