

Blackboard Upgrade Report:

Rice reported that a Blackboard upgrade to Service Pack 13 was performed in late December 2013. New features include:

- **My Blackboard** - pop-up overlay which contains notifications alerting users to changes throughout the system.
- **Video Everywhere** - allows both students and instructors to record, embed, and reuse video throughout the course.
- **New Content Editor** - provides improved text formatting options.
- **Test Enhancements and Test Access Log** - provides settings to allow instructors to give extra time for students with disabilities or to set exceptions for students that may have missed a test due date. The access log provides instructors with the ability to verify student activity during a test.
- **Inline Assignment Grading** - allows instructors to view student submitted files in the web browser. It also provides annotation tools, enabling the instructor to provide feedback including comments, highlights, and even drawings/annotations directly on the inline document view.
- **Enhanced Calendar** - provides instructors the ability to update assignment due dates by simply dragging items between calendar days. Users can also add personal events to their calendar.
- **Retention Center** - provides information on student performance in a course.

More information about new features, in addition to the ones listed above, is available at: www.olemiss.edu/blackboard/Blackboard_Support_and_Training/Bb913NewFeatures.pdf. Committee feedback about the new features was very positive.

Someone asked about using Achievements in Blackboard. JB reported that the FTDC is currently reviewing the requirements and licensing options for Achievements/Badges within Blackboard.

Another member expressed concern about the sort order for newly added items within a Blackboard course. The default now is that new items are automatically added to the bottom of the content list. Ideally, an instructor could set a preference so that new items could be added to the top of the list or the bottom depending on user preference. Bb support was contacted about this issue and have indicated that this is already on their enhancement todo list. In the meantime, instructors can change the sort order of items by simply clicking and dragging the item to a new position in the content list.

The issue of support for ODT and Pages documents within SafeAssignments was also raised. Blackboard *does support* ODT documents but *does not* currently support the Pages format for a SafeAssignment. JB opened an enhancement request with

Blackboard about this issue. At the time a student attaches a file to a SafeAssignment, Blackboard does display a note alerting the student to the types of files that will be accepted.

TACIT Program:

JB reported that changes will be made to the TACIT (UM program for periodic replacement of faculty computers) timeframe this year, pushing the program to later in the academic year. These changes will allow IT to purchase the latest Apple products which are routinely released in late October or November. They will also move the majority of the IT work in planning, ordering, training, and delivery to the Spring semester. This will allow more time for FTDC staff to focus on the upcoming Blackboard upgrades in the Fall semester. The shifted timeline is as follows:

	Old Timeline	New Timeline
Announce TACIT	September	November
Application Deadline	Late September	December
Purchase Systems	Early October	Early January
Training and Delivery	Late October/Early November	February

Miscellaneous:

Kathy Gates is spoke to the committee about a new planning initiative in which she is involved which is focused on technology across the curriculum. She looking for feedback from our committee.

The meeting was dismissed at 3:00 pm.