

Meeting Notes from 09-22-14, 1:00 pm, Weir Hall Room 104

**Members Present:** Penny Rice, Jimmy Ball, Benjamin Jones, Elliott Hutchcraft, Michael Mossing, Alan Arrivee, Maurice Eftink, Jared Solomon

## **Classroom Technology**

Rice reported that we have received 11 requests for technology enhancements in classrooms across campus. Eftink indicated that we should have around 90K to budget for this year's enhancements. We are waiting to get cost estimates for the proposed rooms and then we will meet again to decide which requests are funded. Ball suggested that we allocate a portion of these funds for maintenance of existing classroom technology rooms.

## **Learning Management System (LMS) Evaluation**

Ball gave a report on what has occurred so far in the LMS review process.

- We have used Blackboard (originally CourseInfo) since 1999.
- We have never had a formal review of LMS systems.
- Our Bb contract expires soon and we want to establish a new 5 year contract for an LMS system. Now seems like a logical time to review the products that are currently on the market.
- This committee developed a Request for Information (RFI) over the summer and Procurement distributed it.
- The deadline for vendor responses was August 8, 2014.

We received a Request for Information (RFI) from 5 vendors.

- Brightspace by Desire2Learn ([brightspace.com](http://brightspace.com))
- Schoology ([schoology.com](http://schoology.com))
- Instructure Canvas ([canvaslms.com](http://canvaslms.com))
- Blackboard, Inc. ([blackboard.com](http://blackboard.com))
- LoudCloud Systems ([loudcloudsystems.com](http://loudcloudsystems.com))

After some discussion, the committee decided to invite only two vendors, Blackboard and Canvas to campus for product demonstrations. Schoology and LoudCloud were not considered for on-site review because they are relatively young vendors and not widely used by higher education institutions. Desire2Learn was ruled out based on its cost and the fact that the Mississippi Virtual Community College system recently moved away from Desire2Learn.

Ball will work with Canvas and Blackboard to arrange campus visits in October. At that time, we will allow each company to present their product to anyone interested in attending. We will send invitations to all faculty, staff and students once the demo

sessions have been scheduled. We will also schedule time for each vendor to meet with our committee while on campus. After the campus visits, we will solicit feedback from anyone who attended the demos.

The goal of the committee is to determine which LMS to propose that we move forward with for the next 5 years. We will need to make this decisions by February 2015.

The committee also discussed the possibility of sending out a faculty survey to help determine which features in Blackboard are currently being used the most.

The meeting was dismissed at 2:00 pm.