

Meeting Notes from 11-27-12, 10:00 am, Weir Hall Room 115

Members Present: Penny Rice, Jimmy Ball, Carl Hill, Michael Mossing, Elliott Hutchcraft, Wayne Shaw, Ruth Mirtz, Kelly Wilson

Clickers

Rice reported that the adoption of the new Turning Technologies Response Card NXT clickers progressed smoothly until August when the company released a new version of their clicker software. Unfortunately this new software version caused many issues on campus. We had been anticipating this release because it was supposed to provide a PowerPoint plugin for Mac users. This didn't happen; the PowerPoint option within the Mac version of the software is disabled. Turning Technologies has told us that it simply isn't ready yet and that they hope to have it ready by the Spring semester. Rice also reported that another issue for the Fall was the clicker integration with Blackboard. This was one of the main reasons this committee chose the Turning Technologies clickers, and up until the Fall semester and the release of the new version of the Turning Point software, this had worked well. The new software release, however, required the installation of a new version of the clicker building block in Blackboard. This was a nightmare which resulted in instructors not being able to import their class rosters from Blackboard into the Turning Technologies software until September 19. This was very frustrating for the instructors as they could collect class data using the clickers but then had no way to identify a particular student's response because they could not associate clicker ID numbers with students until these issues were resolved in late September. During this time, Turning Technologies did provide us with a campus student intern who worked directly with the faculty, taking some of the burden of clicker support off of the FTDC.

Blackboard

Rice reported that a Blackboard update to Service Pack 9 is planned for December 12. Some of the new features provided in the update are listed below.

- Automated Regrading - The most requested new feature in this Blackboard upgrade will save instructors time and make it easier to correct problem questions in assessments. With Automated Regrading, instructors can now fix problematic questions by simply editing the invalid question directly and having all necessary updates flow automatically to the Grade Center. For any assessment question, instructors can drop, give full credit, change point value, or change which answer is marked as correct. After the question has been updated, Blackboard Learn recalculates the score of all submitted assessments that included the updated question and reflects the updates in the Grade Center.

- **Negative Marking** - Negative Marking allows instructors to apply negative point values for incorrect answers on assessment questions.
- **Task-Based Navigation** - When teaching multiple courses and performing a task, instructors often want to do it for several courses. Task-Based Navigation lets instructors jump from one course to another, retaining the context of the page, so they can perform the same task across multiple courses, saving time and frustration.
- **Rubric Enhancement** - Rubrics have been updated to include Percentage Range along with Points Range. The Percentage Range option allows a single rubric to work with any assignment as the achievement scores are calculated as a percentage of the item being graded.
- **Course Structures** - These structures allow instructors to setup and customize their Course Menu to match the pedagogical needs of a particular course type. Instructors can choose from a wide variety of pre-built course structures from the Control Panel, Customization, then Teaching Styles. Course structures contain course areas, optional sample content, pedagogical information, and instructions to help design the course.
- **Security Enhancements** - Service Pack 9 introduces many enhancements that protect against security threats.

LMS Updates

JB gave an update on campus Learning Managing Systems (LMS). Angel, which has been used by Ole Miss Online for web based and independent study courses, is being phased out. All of these classes are being transferred to Blackboard. In an effort to make test creation easier for instructors, the FTDC is recommending the use of Respondus software to assist with the creation of tests. Mossing mentioned that he is using Google Sites for his courses and that his students upload proposals and evaluate other students' proposals.

Box

JB informed the committee about Box. Box is a secure, online file sharing and storage service. Content on Box can be accessed from a computer and through iPad, iPhone and Android devices via the Box app. Box is a good resource for storing and sharing files, authoring content, and encouraging collaboration. All current UM faculty, staff, and students will be eligible for a free Box account with 10GB of storage space beginning on Monday, December 3. Instructions will be provided to assist with the sign-up process.

Distance Learning/Web Collaboration System

JB gave an update on the plans for replacing Wimba, the campus web collaboration package that is used by Ole Miss Online and others on campus. Adobe Connect looks to be a good option. Google+ Hang Outs will be turned on soon.

Accessibility

JB reported that a new committee on Accessibility has been formed. He is on the Accessibility committee and will report technology related accessibility concerns back to this committee.

Attendance Tracking

JB also reported on the Attendance Tracking initiative, a technology based solution to minimize the attendance tracking and reporting effort for large (50+) classes. This Fall was the pilot for this technology, with ID barcode scanners being placed in two classrooms. The scanners work as follows: (1) First, the students scan their student IDs by placing them face-up under the scanner so that the ID barcode is readable. (2) The attendance scanner reads the student ID information and sends it to SAP. (3) SAP then processes the records to update class attendance based on the location, time, class, and student in near real-time. (4) The results are made available to the instructor using the new “Manage Attendance” option within the Class Rolls and Grades interface in myOleMiss. For the Spring semester, IT plans to deploy the tracking technology in thirteen additional classrooms.

Demo of New Technology

JB demoed the Swivl (www.swivl.com), a lecture capture device that uses an iPhone or iPod Touch to record video and audio in the classroom. A benefit of this device is that it has a remote microphone that the instructor can wear to enhance audio recording capability. This mic also serves as a remote tracking device which can rotate the Swivl so that the iPhone’s camera is always pointing at the instructor, even if he moves around the room.

Rice passed around a new iPad Mini so that committee members could get feel for its size, weight, and functionality.

The meeting was dismissed at 11:00 am.