

10-29-14 - 1:00 PM

Blackboard Meeting with Instructional Technology Standing Committee - Weir Hall Room 107

Members present: Penny Rice, Jimmy Ball, Alan Arivee, Nicolas Trepanier, Mike Mossing

Visitors: Blackboard representatives

Since many of the committee members are unable to attend today's public demos, Blackboard presented their next generation user interface to the committee. Highlights of the new UI features are as follows:

- The newly redesigned interface looks very clean and modern.
- A student profile view includes relevant content from all courses including: calendar, course schedule, messages, grades, tools, and recent activity.
- The student assignment upload feature now shows a preview of the file contents before they submit it. This should help students not to accidentally submit the wrong file to an assignment.
- Students can add comments to any assignment.
- Students and instructors can search within courses for specific words/content.
- Announcements pop up on entrance into a course.
- Instructions stay with a test as students take the test. The instructions are visible while the test is in progress.
- Faculty also have a profile view in which they can view settings, publisher connections, grades, messages, calendar, tools, xPlor, content, and goals.
- Content can be added anywhere in a course with a click of a + icon. New content no longer goes to the bottom of the page.
- Instructors can also preview an upload before it is added.
- Instructors can connect to google drive and publisher content.
- Course copy is no longer all or nothing. Now instructors can choose exactly which content items they would like to copy into a new course.
- Instructors will have the ability to preview old courses in the new Blackboard interface before deciding to switch to the new UI. When the new UI is rolled out, not all Blackboard features will be available at first. They will be added in future releases.
- In the December upgrade to our Blackboard system, instructors will gain access to a student preview tool.