

Meeting Notes from 12-04-18, 2:00 pm, Weir Hall Room 104

Members Present: Wayne Shaw, Steven Rideout, Kristin Rogers, Nicolas Trepanier, Elliott Hutchcraft, Tamara Warhol, Brian Hopkins, Penny Rice

Guests Present: Amelia Robbins

Learning Managing System (LMS) Evaluation

Rice opened the meeting by giving a brief history of Learning Management Systems at the University of Mississippi.

UM has hosted the Blackboard Learn LMS platform since 1998, when the product was named CourseInfo. In April of 2014, the Instructional Technology Standing committee was given the task of performing an evaluation of the different Learning Management Systems in order to select the LMS platform that would be in place at UM for the next five years. Besides the cost benefits of a five year contract, the effort of migrating to a different LMS requires months of work on the part of the faculty preparing courses and IT integrating the chosen LMS with the student information system, so we would not want to migrate more frequently than every five years.

As part of the 2014 selection process, the following initial requirements were set forth:

- Both vendor and on-premise hosted platforms were considered.
- A vendor offered solution, which includes software maintenance and ongoing enhancements, is needed.
- Beyond a transition phase, one LMS platform is required.

The committee then drafted the LMS evaluation criteria for UM and submitted an RFI to vendors. Five vendor responses were received and of those, two (Blackboard, Inc. and Instructure Canvas) were selected for on campus presentations. All faculty and staff were invited to attend the vendor presentations. FTDC staff worked with both vendors to gain access to demo systems so that we could have a hands-on evaluation of their products. All UM faculty and staff were invited to try out each LMS and to send feedback to the committee. After reviewing all feedback and evaluating the five year costs for each product, the committee made the recommendation to the Provost's office to remain with Blackboard, Inc. and to upgrade to Blackboard Learning Core.

Since we are approaching the end of the five year Blackboard contract, Hopkins charged this committee with the task of deciding where we should go from here. There was much discussion centered around whether a new LMS evaluation process should be campus-wide this time around or contained within our committee. The majority felt that it hasn't been long enough since the last evaluation and that we should bound the process rather than doing a full-scale, campus-wide evaluation. Shaw reported that Mississippi State and USM are now using Canvas. The committee voted to limit this evaluation to two vendors, Blackboard, Inc. and Instructure Canvas. It was also decided that Hopkins, Rice, and Robbins would meet with each of these vendors for product demos and report back to the committee with a list of product features and components

that have been updated or added since the 2014 evaluation. They will report back to the committee during the Spring semester.

The meeting was dismissed at 3:00 pm.