Learning Technologies Advisor Board
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2015
11:00 – 12:30
FLITE 438

Attendees: Amy Buse, Randy Vance, Kimn Carlton-Smith, Margaret Wan, Gary Maixner, Mary Holmes, Brian McDowell, Deb Thalner, Lisa Wall, Mark Hutchinson, Terri Aldrich.

We have some new members on LTAB, including Margaret Wan, Lisa Wall and and Lisa Singleterry from CHP. They are replacing Sheila MacEachron. Randy Vance is phasing out of LTAB, while Brian McDowell is being added in for Optometry.

11:00 Blackboard Update on Upgrade, Mary Holmes

Bb issues: Upgrade still not working. Working closely with Bb support, networking, etc. They cannot do the upgrade during spring break and are to do it in May.

Students calling in with test issues and if you hear of those, let Mary know time and date so she can look into it. Students indicating that they are losing connections. Margaret indicated that a student had issues and asked for verification that it was a Ferris connection issue, but the student indicated it was a landlord connection issue. Still watching it though, in case it is a server or load issue.

Kimn asked: Can we put a notification on the announcement boards on BB that says when they are taking a test they need to be conscientious about using either a high speed connection and stable connection, because of refresh rate system issues? Just so they have an awareness of the issues. Mary thought it wouldn’t hurt to have that pop up now and then for students. If you have force submit option set to “Yes” in Test Options and students have a network glitch, they will lose the connection to the test and will be kicked out. Andrew and Jackie recommend NOT using force submission for that very reason. Also, Mary can search student connectivity so you can tell if the student has really been having issues or not. They can see every student’s click. However, if the student is taking a test and goes out to a learning module, then the test is submitted.
Amy indicated we also have issues clarifying what it means to have high speed Internet? Some students think they have high speed Internet, but there are so many students online at once that the network cannot handle the load. We may need to change the orientation program to explain this more. Kimn also recommended that we remind students to use Ethernet (wired) connection during tests, etc.

Gary mentioned that when using Wi-Fi on the Mac’s Yosemite operating system, there is an issue right now, where wireless connectivity will just drop. This issue is everywhere, both on campus and off.

Mary reminded that we still have the miBUG conference coming up on Wednesday, March 11th in the morning, along with the Teaching and Learning With Technology Symposium in afternoon. A car is going from BR if you are interested in riding together. If we get enough interest, then we can get a van. Kimn: do we know of any Ferris faculty who has submitted presentations? Mary is not aware of anyone presenting from Ferris, but we probably should be represented. Kimn would be willing to do one if we don’t have others already submitting. Jackie will find out and get that conversation going.

Tegrity: During the next few months, Tegrity will be moving to a hosted cloud-based solution. Tegrity is on a 2003 box, which in July of 2015 is at the end of life for software maintenance. Tegrity's only option is to go to a cloud-based environment. They will do the changeover for free including the move of all recordings. This will not happen until after spring term. You will hear more about this throughout the spring semester. Amy has been working with Jackie on how to get our network to handle the Adobe Connect load more effectively and was wondering if the Tegrity cloud based solution would then be slow because of recording directly to the cloud. Mary thinks it will be where you record locally but then pushes it to the cloud after recording.

11:00  **FerrisConnect name and peeping bulldog logo, Jackie Hughes**

The focus group for the new MyFSU project was told by University Advancement and Marketing (UAM) that the University is only to use the bulldog for athletics and not academics. In the past, over 5 years ago, we had a contest and awarded a scholarship to a student who came up with the best name for the LMS. At that time, we changed the name from WebCT to our own branded name, “FerrisConnect.” Since then, students and new faculty
have indicated that the “FerrisConnect” name was confusing for them, especially people coming from another institution that used Blackboard. Along with the name “FerrisConnect,” we used the bulldog logo and we have to consider changing the logo. Someone asked, “What about the MYFSU one; are we changing that?” (We are looking at that). So, there are two conversations: 1. Do we keep the name “FerrisConnect” or do we call it Blackboard? And 2. Do we change the bulldog icon to something else or try to keep the icon we currently have? Can we use the Bb chalkboard icon and put the word “FerrisConnect” below it? The concept was to use FerrisConnect forever so we didn’t have to switch names if we switched the tool later (to Moodle, Desire2Learn, etc.). When using McGraw-Hill or Pearson textbook / LMS products, we have so many things with their own branding on it and that also confuses the students. Kimn has to use extra language to explain the course site from book site, etc. It would be great if all the supplemental sites weren’t so heavily branded so it wasn’t so confusing. Transfer students and faculty know Blackboard but not “FerrisConnect,” so it is a little confusing. Amy: What about using the words “Ferris LMS” with the Bb logo? Deb Thalner: Considering the logic that the words “FerrisConnect” could help lessen the communication when migrating from one LMS to another... Is Ferris planning on doing another LMS migration in the foreseeable future? Jackie: We have just signed another 3-year contract with Bb. We do not have plans to switch to another LMS right now. People are just beginning to use Bb Learn in a more productive way and their courses are better quality. Mary: The support calls are going down as people understand how to use Bb better and faculty are trying out new tools and being more innovative. Randy: Don’t forget the investment to change systems. The advantage has to be really clear to make a change to another system again. Deb: If we are calling the current LMS “Blackboard” and migrate to a new LMS, such as Moodle, the words “Blackboard” and “Moodle” clearly communicate that there has been a change. Otherwise, we have to say “the old FerrisConnect,” and “the new FerrisConnect.” Mark: Do we have permission to use the Bb logo? Jackie has seen others use it, but we can ask. Amy likes having a word that’s consistent as well with the icon, so that students would still know that that is the icon where their learning content is if we ever do change the product (i.e. FerrisConnect with Bb icon). Terri: The new MyFSU is targeted to go live around May. A phased approach to changing the icon/name might be good. We can keep the word
“FerrisConnect” beneath the Bb logo, so students aren’t totally lost. Kimn: Can we coordinate with FSUS and other entry-level courses by including a page or info sheet about this change? We can change information we have online for FSUS. Incoming students will be ignorant of the change since they are new and unaware of what the name/logo used to be. We will need to concentrate on older students.

**Vote:** unanimous to use the Bb logo instead of bulldog.

**Future Vote:** Options include: 1. Call it “FerrisConnect;” 2. Phased approach where we call it FerrisConnect with the new Bb icon for several weeks and later change the name from FerrisConnect to something else; 3. Call it “Blackboard;” 4. Call it “LMS;” 5. Call it “My Courses”. Jackie will send an email with the four options and LTAB can chime in via email.

Should we also think about beyond changing name and icon and consider adding a “My Courses” channel within MyFSU instead? It’s right in the middle. Jackie will invite Vicki Deur to the next meeting about options.

**11:30 Learning Technologies Inventory Update, Jackie Hughes**

Jackie meeting with Paul Blake next week about the inventory and talk about what LTAB is doing.

**11:45 Lecture Capture System Review: Review Committee Members and List of Criteria, Come up with a Time Line**

Some people volunteered and some were volunteered to be on the committee. An email went out last week. Scott provided a list of ‘heavy hitters’ so Jackie emailed that group to invite them to participate. So, look at the list of people who volunteered, determine what we need, attend demos, come back to LTAB to make a recommendation about if we should switch. Notice that not all of the colleges are represented – so might need some additional folks. HVACR, Pharmacy, Education? When we have demos we will open it up to the campus community as well. After a finalized list, Jackie will do a doodle to find times to meet, and they will create criteria of what’s needed. Jackie: What criteria does LTAB members want on the list of lecture/video capture needs? We know Optometry wants to
ensure students can record themselves. Mary: Make sure not a lot of back end work, as we don’t have the staff to support a lot of that work. (Merit’s example had three people just to support it). Issue about conversion of the current materials. Kimn: Concerned about processing or encoding but under the old iTunes system it could take up to 24 hours before you uploaded the recording and students could view. Need something more instantaneous. Amy: Ability to organize your recordings. Amy uses Camtasia and can edit her recording, and that’s helpful (she would need that functionality if she were to switch). Ability to close caption videos by default if possible.

Take a look at the updated LTAB goals. It’s been updated, so take a look at it. Three goals for the year – 1 – expand use of inventory; 2 – lecture capture review; 3 – increase awareness of LTAB. Review this and you have any objections to any of this get with Jackie and let her know.

12:15 Learning Technologies Website Review: What should we add/remove, Terri Aldrich

Get rid of FerrisConnect 2.0 the next learning management system. Add goals and what we did. Put on front those items we are currently working on and who is on it. Add inventory out there somewhere.

Meeting adjourned 15 minutes early, as 12:18 pm.

The next meeting is on Monday, March 16, 2015 from 1:30 – 3:00 in the FLITE 405 Learn Lab.