Learning Technologies Advisor Board
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 23, 2015
1:30 – 3:00
FLITE 405 Learn Lab

Attendees: Amy Buse, Gary Maixner, Mary Holmes, Brian McDowell, Deb Thalner, Lisa Singleterry, Randy Shanks, Terri Aldrich, Margaret Wan, Joe Strohkirch, Sharon DelBello, Andrew Peterson.

1:30 Blackboard Issues Update
- The new version of Google Chrome 42 does not support Java and this causes some issues. The known issues are with virtual classroom and uploading multiple files. If students are having problems they should call TAC. Blackboard is going away from Java but that will not be for a little while.
- Andrew – looked at portfolios and there appear to be some issues. These need to be more fully researched. If anybody is using ePortfolios they may not work in the new version.
- People are not testing se will have a testing day on Thursday April 30 from 8am-12pm. Jackie will send out an invitation to come to the testing session.
- If the testing goes well the new version will be installed on May 13 beginning at 8:00 am and Blackboard will be down during the day.
- There will be lots of announcements to make people aware.
- If you have questions/issues you want the team attending Blackboard World to take to the conference, send them to Mary. The conference is in mid-July.

2:00 FerrisConnect Link Name – Communication Plan
- EMAT was concerned about all the documentation that needs to be changed. So we are considering a phased-in approach.
- Maybe the new name will still be FerrisConnect with the logo being the Bb logo.
- Final decision is to change the name to Blackboard and the logo to the Bb logo. This will be changed during the May 13th upgrade.
- Jackie will communicate this change to Vicky Deur.

2:30 Lecture Capture System Review Progress Update
- We have had 4 of 5 vendors on campus to do their demonstration presentations.
- Waiting for demonstration links from Tegrity and MediaSites.
• Ensemble will come on campus to do their demonstration on Monday. This is the last demo.
• Panopto is also going to be looked at as well. This is in response to the suggestion of some other people.
• The next and last Lecture/Video Capture Review committee meeting on May 5th will be to review the vendors, narrow down the list of qualified vendors, and make some decisions as to what approach to take. In the long run we will have to get approval from purchasing and this may take an RFP or rational for the single chosen vendor.
• We are not trying to get a new product for fall 2015 as we would need more time to implement a new system.
• The current rubric does not include pricing but we will be requesting the pricing information from each vendor and will have that at the May meeting.
• Choosing a product is difficult from just watching the demo. It is not the same as working with the product yourself. Sometimes vendors do not always give the true picture during the sales pitch.
• Future Needs to keep in mind
  o Many people thought having a trial period for the top of 1 or 2 products would be important as it is difficult to really know what the demo is showing is how it really works. That can be difficult. We did do that with a few products the last time. Installing the products as stand-a-alone products without integrating with Blackboard will make that easier but will still take resources from faculty and IT to do the setup and testing. We need to make sure we have the committed resources on both sides.
  o As we examine the issue we need to keep in mind the cost of switching products and make sure we ask if the cost of switching will really increase functionality. Example: If we already have 95% of the functionality we want is it worth moving to a new product to get to 98%.
  o When making the final decision we need to make sure we can support both ends of the quality spectrum. Optometry (and other) areas need the higher quality video for their work, but then others have students with lower bandwidth capabilities or limited availability to Internet (ex: deployed soldiers that only get ½ of satellite time a day). Then make sure we understand that we know what students expect for general video quality. If they get high quality everywhere else and we show them not high quality what does that say? We need to make sure that we can do both so we need a vendor that does not reduce the quality of the recording at the beginning so we have no ability to control the quality after the recording is created.
We need a video repository to store all our video so that faculty who prefer to use Camtasia can still load their recordings into the video repository and embed them into Blackboard.

Some faculty need to be able to capture multiple inputs such as having two screens in the capture at the same time. The students need to be able to choose what they are looking at, video, notes, in general multiple inputs.

Bookmarks – with Echo the bookmarks are very different. The notes functions are more dynamic. How the functions are presented and work with the users is very different.

- Problems with Tegrity
  - History of not liking it
  - Inability to capture quality, higher file sizes, higher frame rates
  - Tegrity compresses the quality of the capture right at the beginning. Joe has worked with Tegrity technical support on these issues and at this time there are settings to make it better but not significantly.
  - Should have the ability to embed into Blackboard as a thumbnail for quality student usability.
  - Need More advanced editing
  - HVAC – so trouble viewing from Tegrity so they are uploading videos to YouTube
  - The Tegrity that was demonstrated is not the Tegrity that we do not have.
  - Tegrity is moving to an Amazon delivery which will have network implications
  - Trouble with closed captioning 3Play Media but Tegrity has trouble with this solution

**Additional Item added**

- Looking at new tools – It was brought up that the collaboration tools currently do not meet the needs of the faculty and should LTAB be looking into these tools. The tools mentioned were
  - Wikis – a full-featured Wiki as the one in Blackboard does not have the needed features
  - Collaborations tools for non-co-located students – My students have a lot of required meetings without my presence and they are using Google Hangout. I can’t see their activity
  - A way to share files within a team, across teams, and with students in other classes – Blackboard does not have that ability so again my students use Google Docs. We are told by our security area to not have any FERPA data in Google Docs. That sounds like a violation but there is no other way to accomplish the task. And again, my Ferris credentials are on a different
platform so I need to create a Google account just to communicate with my students and then have another e-mail account to check because my students will stop using my @ferris.edu account.

- It was brought up that a person at another institution had a link in Blackboard for using Microsoft Lync. Mary will look at using Lync in Blackboard as Lync has a lot of hooks for 3rd party tools.
- Microsoft Lync is being changed to Skype for Business
- There was discussion that before we look into new tools we need some buy-in from the administration for standards in general. Others were in favor for looking at tools. No decision was made.

3:00 Adjourn

The last meeting is on Wednesday, May 5, 2015 from 11:00 – noon in the FLITE 405 Learn Lab.