FerrisConnect Advisory Board Meeting - FAB
Thursday, March 17, 2011 – 11:00 – 12:00pm in IRC 131

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:
Eunice Beck, Robbie Teahen, Cheryl Cluchey, Amy Buse, Sue Hastings-Bishop, Randy Vance, Scott Randall, Mary Holmes, John Urbanick, Kim Hancock, Larry Bajor

1. SPARC Meeting – Bea
Bea, Robbie and John updated the discussions and presentations to the SPARC Meeting including the following:

EMAT results from focus groups on issues and potential recommendations. It was noted that the focus groups were not well-attended
Robbie - provided an overview of the Faculty Summary – N=177 (there was a great number of comments that will be summarized and categorized)
John – provided a history of online learning at FSU starting with WebCT
Mary – provided an update of the Blackboard 9.1 Pilot

SPARC – as part of the strategic plan, implement a plan for online learning at Ferris State

2. Online Student Survey – Robbie
Robbie provided a summary of the student survey at FSU. Because there were some negative comments naming specific instructors, she did not believe it was important to put this document on the public website. John suggested that we extract the quantitative information and put this information on the website. Robbie will ask Jen H. to extract this data. Robbie feels that FAB, EMAT and the Deans (who will receive the survey with specific names) need to see this data because we are leading online learning at FSU. She suggested that we use good judgment in managing this information.

3. Pilot Faculty Survey (Draft) - Mary
Mary described how the draft was constructed and who was on the committee. Mary asked for input for missing pieces. We divided the questions into functionality and satisfaction (ease of use). We will have an open comment section for each question.

It was suggested that we have a Not Applicable answer as one of the potential answers. Amy B. suggested an additional question about how easy/hard it was for faculty to help
students when they had issues with the system. Also add a question about blended or fully online class. It was suggested we send out the survey before the Easter Break.

Mike Berghoef had a question about Mobile Learning. John U. said that they were investigating, but this would not be a part of the Pilot initiative. It is too expensive for the Pilot and John did not get all the information that he requested. Mary believes that we are moving in the direction of Mobile Learning, that we must have something as a university. That is why we are looking at Blackboards Mobile apps — students at CMU, Grand Valley and GRCC have a Mobile option. John’s goal is to have some solution for the fall providing there is a budget for it.

4. Criteria for Access to courses by FerrisConnect Administrators - Mary

This topic is about when a FerrisConnect admin would allow access to a faculty’s course. Each college has a complaint policy. John mentioned that the senate was developing a centralized complaint document/policy. It was discussed that the FerrisConnect Admins should not have to know the conflict resolution for each college and that a University plan needs to be used. This centralized plan is being created in the Senate and will be the one followed by the FerrisConnect admins.

5. Other

John U. met with Karen Bohren from the bookstore. She has building blocks from McGraw Hill (publisher independent). Components include — electronic chapters from texts to add to course, and add faculty notes. Student can buy the e-book and get the faculty notes. This option is called Nook Study.

Question was asked about next steps if the Pilot feedback is not positive for support of the platform. John answered that he said the faculty and student feedback will be factored into next steps and if Moodle needs to be piloted or another tool be considered. We are currently piloting a product that is not supposed to be completely developed until the fall.

6. Next Meeting: April 21, 2011