Learning Technologies Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 25, 2014
3:30 – 5:00
FLITE 405

Present: Jackie Hughes, Jody Gardei, Mary Holmes, Brendan Fleishans, Joshua Pardon

3:30 FerrisConnect Issues/Updates, Mary Holmes

I. Updates on issues presented last month.
   A. Blackboard is working on a fix for the following issues.
      1. Assignments where Save as Draft does not work
      2. Assignments in Learning Modules where an error is given to the students
   B. Respondus Lockdown Browser
      1. Building Block was upgraded in FerrisConnect during Spring Break
      2. Client was also updated in Flite during Spring Break
      3. Faculty should now be able to give a test listing all questions and not just one at a time
   C. What’s New Module – intermittent issue where the module sometimes works and sometimes doesn’t. Blackboard has responded that this is not on the horizon to fix but if they decide to fix it, they will let us know.

II. miBug (Michigan Blackboard Users Group)
   A discussion took place about miBUG being on Thursday, April 10 at Wayne State University and that Mary has a car with open seats for anyone that would like to attend. The event is free of charge and Blackboard will be providing the lunch. Brendan stated he would like to attend. Mary will send him the information to register and keep him in the loop of travel plans.
III. SMS Texting
A discussion took place about turning on texting in Blackboard. Several instructors have expressed interest in using this tool. Mary stated that she could turn the tool on and do some testing but wanted everyone to know that instructors would have to work with their students to get updated phone numbers in FerrisConnect for this to work. Currently, we do not flow phone numbers from Banner to FerrisConnect. Jackie also discussed the fact that we need to do some data cleansing and get updated phone numbers in Banner for all students.

IV. Course Deletions
Mary discussed the fact that we have been on the new FerrisConnect for 5 semesters now and it is time to remove past semester courses to better manage our disk space. We currently utilize 1.4 TB of space for FerrisConnect. It was decided by the Learning Technology Advisory Board in the past that we would keep a total of 4 semesters on the system at all times to cover all grade disputes. This means that we will keep:

- Spring 2013
- Summer 2013
- Fall 2013
- Spring 2014

Therefore, all Banner integrated course shells from Fall 2012 will be removed starting on April 1st, 2014 from the system and you will need to put in a work order with the Technology Assistance Center if you feel you need to have a course retrieved.

We do have end of semester backups for the semester that we will be removing from the system so there is no need for you to do anything. This message is just and FYI to let you know that we are in the deletion process. A university wide message letting all faculty know about the course deletions was sent out on March 17th.

V. Mobile App
An issue was brought to our attention that when using the Blackboard Learn app in blogs, it cuts off the bottom of the blog. A case has been opened with Blackboard.
VI.  BBWorld
A discussion took place about if we were sending anyone to BBWorld. We will send a note to Robbie to see if there are any funds to send individuals to this conference.

VII.  Templates
A discussion took place that we have been working with Kendal College to get a special template for their courses. We have been working with Tara McCrackin and will be rolling out a new template for them in the next month.

4:00  Joshua Pardon asked about the Date Management system in Blackboard and how it worked to ensure it was working properly. Jackie demonstrated how it worked.

4:15  Learning Technology at Ferris State University: Jackie gave an update on how data gathering was going and asked for ideas or thoughts on what LTAB should do with this information. Should we present the findings to the VPs, Academic Senate, SPARC, or EMAT?

Does Ferris have technology tools with functionality that overlaps? How much does the institution spend on learning technologies and how much should be budgeted for it?

4:30  Adjourn