

# UAS Regional TLTR Meeting

3/22/2012, 10:00 AM

Chancellor's Conference room, UAS Juneau campus

**In attendance:** Hildegard Sellner, Michael Ciri, Lee Graham, Maren Haavig, Jennifer Ward, Tony Martin, Colleen McKenna, Kim Schulte, Maureen O'Halloran, Megan Buzby, Jill Hanson, Eric Keller, Rob Billideau, Joelle Courtright, Mark Thompson, Emily Wall, Jon Martin, Wendy Miles, Marnie Chapman, Carol Hedlin

Guest: Chris Beks

Draft minutes from March 1 are approved

## Blackboard Updates

- On track for creation of fall course shells when registration opens.
- Portfolio system is integrated. They are looking at what they can do to keep some of the best features from UASOnline.
- CampusPack will be included. Not yet licensed, but it is in progress and should be ready for fall.
- Dropped students will be removed from class roster but not from gradebook. Instructor will need to change their role.
- All UAS faculty will be required to switch to UAS Blackboard in fall 2012 – they can no longer use UAF blackboard.
- Some faculty are interested in getting the textbook BB course cartridge, which allows faculty to plug in their textbook materials straight in to BB.

## Blackboard Perspectives from Chris Beks (Instructional Program Consultant from UAF)

- Chris has experience with transitioning between Blackboard versions at UAF. He's been through several upgrades – involved in training, support, and testing.
- He strongly recommends Campus Pack – a hosted blog, wiki, podcast and journal tool. Provides a lot of options that don't come with the basic Blackboard installation.
- What types of issues arise during an upgrade – four months before the upgrade, they let faculty know that the upgrade was coming and what it would include. They offered training every day, he went to dept meetings and did presentations, they went to faculty orientation, provided documentation, how-to videos.
- In fall 11, UAF switched to a new version of BB and did not adequately test the system – used only two students and several important bugs slipped through. They learned that more testers are necessary and that they need to be committed to doing the testing. Need to test in several browsers and operating systems.
- When they upgrade, they provide several weeks advance notice to faculty, along with multiple training opportunities. To get the word out, they use newsletters, fliers, twitter feeds, and their Web site. Links to training videos are posted on Web site.
- Chris recommends starting out with Service Pack 8 so that we aren't starting out with the bugs in previous versions.

- Chris and others from UAA and UAS have talked about trying to coordinate their upgrades/updates for students who are taking courses from multiple MAUs.
- There's a rumor that the UA president wants to move away from BB to a home grown solution, which is affecting buy-in at UAS. Chris says there are no signs that UA is moving away from Blackboard. He suggests contacting Karl Kowalski for an official statement to dispel the myth.

### **Google Mail**

- There's also a rumor that UAS might be switching to Google mail. Chris suggests asking Karl about this as well.

**Action Item: Tony will look into the two rumors (that we're moving away from BB and that we're moving to Google mail).**

- Chris will join the online discussion – needs someone to send him an invitation.

**Action item: Colleen will send Chris invitation.**

### **Training update from Maureen:**

- Maureen will be traveling to Ketchikan and Juneau the week of April 16-20 (first to Ketchikan). She has the Glacier room reserved for Thursday and WB102 for Friday, including evenings to help adjuncts.
- Illuminate sessions will start soon and run through June.
- Online support materials are coming soon
- She will work with the help desk staff face-to-face during her April visit to Juneau.

### **Juneau iTeach:**

- Tentatively scheduled for May 14-18 (pending room availability)
- They will accept 12 people
- Applicants must have a course that has some kind of e-learning component.
- They might open some of the sessions to drop-ins when the session concerns Blackboard

### **UASOnline/Email forwarding**

- DONUTs group looked at ways to help ensure that students update their email forwarding addresses in UASOnline each semester.
- Currently, the Edit Profile page appears when someone logs into UASOnline for the first time. The page has numerous fields, and the "Forward UAS email to" field often gets lost or ignored.
- DONUTs suggested the idea of having a pop-up window appear in UASOnline at the start of each semester that requires each student to either confirm or update their emails addresses.
- TLTR unanimously supports this idea.

- Sitka continuing education students only use UASOnline for a day or two. Many report that the interface looks daunting. For these students, it would be helpful to be able to log straight into Blackboard rather than passing through the UASOnline portal.

**Action item: Colleen will inform DONUTS that TLTR supports having students confirm or update their forwarding email address every semester via UASOnline pop-up window.**

**Action item: Jill will bring the topic of logging straight in to BB back to the DONUTS group.**

**Action item: Tony and Kim will add the following items to the next agenda: defaults for course content, whether to start out with service pack 8**

**Next meeting: April 5, 9:30 AM**