

TLTR meeting minutes: 12/5/13

Present: Lee Graham, Gabriel Wechter, Jason Amundson, Carol Hedlin, Kimberly Schulte, Kathy Baldwin, Maureen O'Halloran, Susie Feero, Jill Hanson, John Long, Virgil Fredenburg, John Martin, Ann Spehar

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The committee made no actionable decisions during this meeting.

Discussion focused around the attached document.

Attachment:

## **Issues discusses in Blackboard Workgroup to be brought to attention of TLTR**

Agenda Items:

1. Blackboard running in the UAS Online frame: What are the Pros and Cons?
2. Integrating new external services into Blackboard (examples: Google Apps for Education, Voicethread, etc.)
3. To what extent should UA agree on common systems? (e.g., Blackboard, Webconferencing, Google Apps ...)

The purpose of these agenda items is to raise these issues for discussion, ask TLTR members to seek input from faculty or students, not to make a decision at this meeting.

### **Blackboard running in the UAS Online frame: What are the pros and cons?**

Blackboard currently runs in the UAS Online Frame – Students log into UAS Online, click on their class and are taken to their Blackboard class with the UAS Online header at the top. Now that faculty have had a year and a half experience with this – should we re-examine the pros and cons?

- UAS Online serves as a portal with access to other functions, not just class sites.
- Other scenarios:
  - Continue to use UAS Online as a portal but when a class is entered, have Blackboard open (without the frame) in a new window or tab.
- Running Blackboard in the UAS Online frame means we have a non-standard Blackboard configuration. Does it take more time and resources to test and evaluate or to apply upgrades?
- A non-standard configuration means that some third party services (e.g., publisher's websites that interact with Blackboard) do not operate as expected.
- Some functions of Blackboard require "My Blackboard". This front page provides quick navigation to classes, access to grades from all classes, and can be configured to show announcements, "due dates", calendar etc. from *all* Blackboard classes, allows students to set up alerts, etc. We are missing some of the features that Blackboard has developed because we are not using this front page for Blackboard.

**What services should we adopt and integrate into Blackboard? To what extent should UA agree on common systems?**

Should UAS adopt services common to other UAS campuses (e.g., Google Apps for Education - UAA and UAF)? Are there concerns about services “in the cloud”? What kind of contract would address those concerns?

How and when do we decide to adopt and integrate into Blackboard services requested by faculty? (Example: Voicethreads – already adopted by UAA, another example of a “cloud” service.)

- Integrating services into Blackboard provides single login, makes class management much easier.
- New tools serve pedagogical purposes, allow different forms of expression, student collaboration, etc.
- Many of these services are “in the cloud” – how do we address FERPA issues?
- Site licenses cost money – how do we decide/prioritize?

**To what extent should UA adopt common systems common to the rest of UA**

To what extent is it desirable that UAS adopt systems common to all UA.

- Services such as Google Apps can be used for professional purposes as well as classroom purposes. Sometimes cross-MAU collaboration is more difficult when UAS does not use the same Google Apps as UAA and UAF
- UAA and UAF have already integrated Blackboard Collaborate into their Blackboard versions.
- Both Blackboard Collaborate and Adobe Connect have been proposed for UAS. The state-wide evaluation team rated both as having similar capabilities.