

University of Alaska Southeast
Teaching, Learning, & Technology Roundtable (TLTR)
Agenda / Meeting Minutes—February 20, 2014

Novatney Conference Room; 10:00 - 11:30 AM
Toll-free number: 800-893-8850; Participant PIN: 8955736

Attendance:

Juneau - Michael Ciri, Lee Graham, Andrew McDonough, Gabriel Wechter, Bethany Wilkes, Diana Collins, Anselm Staack, Sara Minton, Carol Hedlin; **Sitka** - Maureen O'Halloran, Marnie Chapman, Jill Hanson, Jon Martin; **Ketchikan** - John Long, Ann Spehar, Kimberly Schulte.

1. Call to order – Opening Comments.

Michael Ciri opened up with reaffirming IT's commitment to TLTR and indicated that the non-attendance last time was caused by another scheduling conflict that required all IT members to attend.

Discussion of TLTR reporting to the faculty senate on a regular basis. Because of faculty representation on a committee, somebody needs to report to the faculty senate about faculty issues, and senate can decide if it needs to go further.

John Martin will represent faculty senate on TLTR.

Discussion of technologies such as "Turnitin", academic citation tools, etc. – and whether TLTR was or should be involved in an evaluation of that software. Not a specific charge to this committee, but the discussion comes up regularly. It's not TLTR's role to push the implementation or use of a particular product.

There continued an extended discussion of "Turnitin." The Blackboard working group is the primary group to take up such issues, possible to prepare a comparison of several alternatives for TLTR, faculty review.

2. Approval of minutes from January 16 meeting

Minutes were approved.

3. Blackboard Running in UAS Online Frame – Michael Ciri

Report on the fact that this has been a continuing discussion on the Blackboard committee – UAS Online portal v. direct to Blackboard.

In UAS Online – there are some problems with functionalities that are not available, some additional complexity, some changes that happen (security settings).

Right now it runs “through” the portal (authentication, integration with Banner and other services), and once in, you are running “in” a frame inside the portal.

If Blackboard is completely divorced from the web portal, there are issues that need to be addressed. But the work does not go away if it completely divorced from the portal.

Ongoing programming (whether it runs “in the portal” or not) goes on within Blackboard. The issue has become complicated because the web browsers are upgraded and changed on an accelerated schedule, and reactive changes are taking place to accommodate the “push” changes from tools such as Chrome and Firefox that require reconfiguration on a regular basis.

Integration with the UAS web portal provides many advantages to UAS; however, Blackboard can run “through” the portal (integration) without necessarily running “in” the portal (framing). There does not seem to be a single solution for all users. Some users benefit greatly from the current strategies, but this does not make it the best strategy for everyone. In recognition of this, IT has committed to making it possible for those users who wish to access their course site outside of a portal frame to do so easily.

IT will come back to provide a progress update in April TLTR meeting. Projected solution in place by Fall 2014.

4. Blackboard Upgrade – Maureen Review of the upcoming upgrade:

Biggest implication of the upgrade is that the Campus Pack blogs and wiki’s are going away, and the Blackboard version of such tools will be used.

IT/BBWG will announce a list of changes early. There will be some change in look and feel – but not overly dramatic. Interface with McGraw-Hill test server will not change.

Some concern expressed by Michael Ciri as to the fact that third party products will continue on in the IT world, and there needs to be a way to retain such information. Maintaining only that which is in Blackboard (as a retention policy) is a problem because it excludes that large amount of the content that is in other third party products in their native form – and they have to be copied into Blackboard or saved otherwise.

The “Copy” function in Blackboard from one semester to the next has some real issues, does NOT work well, and is a continuing issue.

5. Helpdesk web page

Not all of the Helpdesk web pages are updated and IT is aware of that. Homepage on Helpdesk does need to be revamped.

Marnie asked about staffing on 1) evening and weekend, and 2) how we can coordinate with other MAUs.

Diana Collins reviewed the present hours and staffing, and weekend and evening Helpdesk requests received.

There is a Helpdesk status report, and the “Dashboard” is available to anyone to see what system performance issues are.

6. Classroom remodeling (technology plug-ins, etc.)

[Saved for next meeting]

7. Other agenda items

- a. Sign up Sloan – C Sessions: http://sloanconsortium.org/conference/2013/aln/streamed_sessions

Available to everyone on TLTR - go to the above web link, signup with UAS e-mail address, register an account with that e-mail address and your own password.

- b. Rural Access Letter has been sent to Rick

8. Next meeting

Friday, March 14, 10:00 am.

9. Adjourn