

Regional TLTR Minutes January 17, 2019

Regional TLTR members present: Cody Bennett, Susie Feero, Virgil Fredenberg, John Ingman, Jon Martin, Maureen O'Halloran, Tim Powers, Ann Spehar, and Jennifer Ward. Guests: Robin Gilcrist.

Minutes from November 15, 2018 meeting: Approved

Technology Update

- There have been issues affecting the Juneau Virtual Environment with hiccups in connectivity.
- Video conferencing in statewide OIT VCS (videoconference services) has put out RFP for proposals of how to move forward. Cody is on technical review committee. He does not have specifics right now but videoconference services seems to want to have videoconference operate as they always have, other parties have different points of view. Cody is trying to find ways to partner with other parties to think outside the box. The RFP process may be completed in month or two or may slip.
- The regional helpdesk is now well staffed with students. Some students still coming up to speed. Martin Carter's contract is being reduced to 60% for the present. Students calling will more likely get student on helpdesk.
- Information Systems staff is working on changes to DNS (Domain Name Service). In theory, users should experience no impact but it is possible they may overlook something. DNS tells web browsers which service to visit so it is possible users may see messages like not being directed to server. The plan is to not miss details and trying best to make it transparent.
- There was a question about Blackboard connectivity at start of semester. There were a couple of short "blips" where it might have been down very briefly but didn't think it was broad-based. Yesterday, there was a 15 minute window when UAS Online was down. Users have experienced slow joining behavior occasionally when using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. Susie reported 3 students with microphones not working but doesn't know why. They should contact helpdesk who can use remote connection tools. Robin reports when she had trouble then Ultra gives link to tutorial but classic does not have that link.

CELT Update

- Issues/Comments to the Blackboard Upgrade –
 - There were changes to the theme in addition to the underlying version.
 - The ability to change colors and themes are identified as not-supported. You may not see the full effect of changes until switching to student previews.

Buttons are not working either according to Ann. Changes didn't show, but were visible once student view was active.

- There are some views where there could be light text on a light background.
- Ann voiced concerns about Capitalization, Colors in menu tabs, using HTML codes. It may not be working for anything below – it shows the HTML code at the top of the page (perhaps in the title).
- Ann is concerned about using blue for highlighted things.
- Ann indicated that it is a priority to her to manage the teaching style and theme to give the best encounter possible for her students.
- It is unclear if Blackboard will bring back theming.
- Adopting the new theme was important for mobile responsiveness. One thing was that with a low horizontal screen or window size, the side menu collapses. It doesn't come back if a window is expanded and you need to click on a blue bar on the left. There is a bit of a learning curve.
- Maybe it be appropriate for this group to consider what we want from an LMS and whether or not we would want to push on the UA system to consider alternative LMS environments?
- Full changes to the colors/buttons only appear in student view. That is: customization changes, like changing from links to buttons on the main menu, appear in the student view but not the instructor view.
 - In some ways it's nice that instructor view is different than student view, but in some ways it would be nice to have the faculty/student views to have more consistency.
 - Recommendation is to look in student view to see how it manifests for our students.
- White-on-white of the '+' sign on the main menu is a known bug.
- Completely new feature is an attendance tool within Blackboard.
 - Collaborate Ultra makes report of attendance but it is not linked to the grade center. Collaborate Classic can add attendance to the grade center but only if each class meeting is a separate scheduled session. The new Attendance feature would make things easier to get a calculation in the gradebook for both online and face to face classes.
 - When the column is added to the gradebook, students would see their "grade" for attendance and can also see (with deeper digging) what the specific dates of attendance are.
- Enhancement to grade center: full column name is now a feature, but now there is a lot more white space in the grade center. Remember that you can expand the center to full screen for easier viewing.
- You can also attach files from google drive/dropbox etc.
- Discussion board now shows "replies to me" as well as the usual "unread".
- Any place you give feedback (grading with a box for feedback using the text editor with tools), now gives audio or video (webcam) comments. The button is on the

bottom of the third row in the first position. This had a blank icon (which should be addressed by technical staff).

- Trainings
 - The Monday Morning Mentor will resume on January 28th.
 - Maureen will be sending a survey to gauge interest in different workshops (with some recommendations of topics and option to ask for others). She'll look for time slots.
 - Schedule will be at uas.alaska.edu/celt/
 - Faculty learning on open pedagogy (including OER, discussion about how students might help curate learning activities) meeting biweekly, with Jonas Lamb.
 - John Ingman will offer an assessment workshop and will make it available to all UAS campuses.
 - Heather Batchelder – will offer a workshop on universal design for learning.
 - The Digital Faculty Fellows application process is changing. We'll open the applications in February with a deadline in March. This will give more time for workload conversations and planning or even work over the summer (rather than fall application for spring.)
 - For full schedule see www.uas.alaska.edu/celt/ and the events list.

Upcoming Topics

- Hardware exploration
- Juneau is having a room in CELT for recording?
 - i. Talking about audio or simple video recording. Maybe other equipment like a scanner. No real money to spend.
 - ii. Please keep Cody in the loop.
 - iii. Consider “could this be a room for student use?”

How do we keep our finger on what faculty want and what we're not getting from our technology tools?

Upcoming Meetings

Our next meeting is scheduled for 11 am on Thursday, February 21, 2019.