

## **LMS Review Committee Final Report**

### **Summary:**

The Learning Management System (LMS) Review Committee was formed in September 2013. The charge of the committee was to review our current Learning Management System, Blackboard, and to determine if it was adequately meeting our needs as a campus and to gather data on what features and functionality the campus (both faculty, students, and affected staff) would like in an LMS. After several surveys of the faculty and students and in depth analysis and discussion, the committee determined that Blackboard may not be meeting our needs adequately and that further investigation should be undertaken. The committee recommends that both Blackboard and other LMS options should be evaluated to determine the best fit.

### **Details:**

After formation in September, the Learning Management System (LMS) Review Committee met three times, September 18<sup>th</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup>, and October 30<sup>th</sup>. The LMS review Committee was made up of the following members:

**Committee Chair:** Jeff Schramm

**Committee Members:** Fiona Nah, Paul Runnion, Max Tohline, Dan Oerther, Katie Grantham, Dan Stutts, John Hogan, Dakota Ewigman, Nick Fouche

**Ex-officio Members:** Angie Hammons, Amy Skyles, Jeff Jennings, Diane Hagni

Two open forums were scheduled on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> in The Havener Center to solicit input from faculty and students. In addition, an online survey was created and distributed to all faculty and students to gather more information. A summary of the results of the forums and online survey follows (detailed results of these surveys are included in the appendix). Instructors appreciated the depth of features on Blackboard but did not like the difficulty of navigation to various features. Students overwhelmingly want instructors to use Blackboard or a similar LMS to post grades and other relevant course materials. Statistical use data was compiled by the Ed Tech staff on the number and type of usage of Blackboard by current instructors. Due to limitations in Blackboard metrics were difficult to gather and were incomplete. Never the less, the data that was gathered was very helpful to the committee in understanding the current use of Blackboard on campus. Blackboard is used by many instructors on campus in many different ways. Large enrollment classes have more use of blackboard than smaller classes. A majority of courses use Blackboard in some way. Most use it as a "bulletin board" to post assignments, lecture notes and other information. Others go further and use various collaboration tools such as the discussion boards and online assignments such as quizzes. Many instructors use the grade book functionality of Blackboard although the complications of the grade book were mentioned and discussed.

The committee was unanimous in its decision that Blackboard and other Learning Management System alternatives should be evaluated and compared to determine which LMS would best meet the needs of the campus. The committee recommends that beginning as soon as January that 2-3 additional LMS alternatives be evaluated, if possible in an actual course environment to more fully explore both Blackboard and the alterative products available.