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MEETING MINUTES

eLEARNING COMMITTEE

DATE: **MAY 7, 2014**
TIME: **8:30 AM TO 9:30 AM**
LOCATION: **UNIVERSITY HALL, ROOM 504**
CHAIR: **CHRIS EDWARDS, CO-CHAIR: MELINDA RHODES-DISALVO**

CALL TO ORDER

Chris asked for introductions for the new members.

Present: Sue Trakas, Michelle Conda, Brian Verkamp, Bryan Smith, Leslie Schick, Ruth Benander, Warren Huff, Melinda Rhodes-DiSalvo, Chris Edwards, John Hutton, Traci, Dawn Clineman, Melody Clark, BJ Zirger, Dani Peterson, Sarah Schroeder, Robert Rokey, Mike Mitchum

Conference Call: Melody Clark, Dawn Clineman, Melody Clark, BJ Zirger, Dani Peterson,

Apologies: Jeff Nainaparampil, Lisa Meloncon, Jennifer Killham, Pamela Greenstone, Patricia Goedl

BUSINESS

Canopy Launch

Overall the upgrade has gone well. Chris thanked Paul Foster and his team for their work and dedication for the successful launch. The committee noted faculty and students still confuse Canopy and Blackboard.

The committee discussed ideas for overcoming the confusion. A starting point would be to better define the term, eLearning. It is about technology enhanced learning – not just distance learning. Canopy is a connection of eLearning tools, with Bb being one of the tools. Context matters and people tend to define eLearning based on their use and entry point. Chris asked the committee to work on defining the term in their separate groups outside of the committee meetings. Committee members were asked to repackage and highlight strategic communications on Canopy for their units. He also shared some slides with eLearning terms and definition (posted on the SharePoint site). Another suggestion was for the communications team to develop short videos with handouts to provide information about Canopy and Blackboard, specifically about how to get up and running in Blackboard. Melinda pointed out that the research literature on eLearning includes human resources in any discussion of the ecosystem. In that way, the FTTC and CET&L team are part of the ecosystem. Chris asked the committee members to share the documentation they are using to explain Canopy.

IT@UC Update

This is not a rebranding of UCIT but redefines IT as being more inclusive of the university community. A task force is being developed to form a partnerships between IT and ID faculty and staff on campus. Some of the recommendations from the IT@UC Committee are:

- Funding Update - Appropriately fund UC's computing, data and network infrastructure in support of academic, research and administrative priorities
- Endorse IT@UC Strategies
- Sustain IT@UC Engagement
- IT @UC Leadership Development – Include at least one person from each IT Unit across all campuses in the annual IT Leadership Academy.

eLearning Retreat

Chris and Melinda reviewed the strategies and recommendations that arose from the eLearning retreat, held in February (documents posted on SharePoint). Strategies were discussed to keep the momentum from the retreat going over the summer break. The existing communications team creates and distributes high-level communications, which are very helpful, they often aren't well distributed throughout the colleges nor do they have specific college context. One recommendation was to create a news content, which could include broad input from all IT and eLearning groups. The content could be a special section in eCurrents, or even a separate newsletter. It would need to address issues on many levels, targeted to various groups. Some examples are policy driven articles, how to, and pedagogy focused articles. Content could be contributed from eLearning representatives from various units. A starting point would be to bring Instructional Designers and members from this committee together this summer to start the process. Chris asked for the members to send an email to Jane to volunteer to help develop the communication.

Teach Act

The Technology, Education and Copyright Harmonization Act (Teach Act) needs to be better communicated to the University community. Paul has been working with the Office of General Council to ensure that various applications within the eLearning ecosystem are Teach Act compliant. He will include Dani Peterson and Matt Rota in the discussions. They will contact Ken Hirsh (Law) to obtain and share the draft policy work that has already been done on this subject. Dani and Matt will take the lead to develop, organize and distribute the Teach Act information on campus.

Canopy

The committee reviewed the Canopy.uc.edu portal page. Blackboard@uc.edu is now canopy.uc.edu with a suite of tools listed by icon. There are three links on the Canopy page to get to the Blackboard LMS. This is version 1. The suite of tools will be expanded to include the virtual Libraries systems link along with other tools eLearning tools. The new portal includes tools embedded within Bb but also external tools as well.

The redirects are causing some confusion. A portal module needs to be developed in Blackboard with a link to go back to the canopy.uc.edu page. Version 2 of the Canopy portal page may use the Google branding concept by allowing the students to submit designs.

Echo360 Update

Chris introduced Mike Mitchum (UCIT) to the committee. Mike, Chris and a small delegation from UC attended an active learning conference last week at Case Western University. Mike said that Echo360 is going in a new direction and is making a huge investment in a new UI and user experience. The new version is a cloud-hosted solution instead of an on-premise system. It has a suite of tools embedded, including social media and analytics in the dashboard view. The analytics tool will help answer questions like which students are falling behind and what content needs to be improved. Other advantages to the system are:

- Easy adoption,
- Encourages persistent learning
- Provides actionable data
- SaaS efficiencies

- Open architecture
- No additional direct cost to students (to buy clickers for interaction)

If the University decides to pilot Echo360 next fall, we will need sufficient wireless infrastructure to support it. It needs to be available for students as well to make it a truly enterprise level resource. However, it needs to be noted that this is a brand new tool, using bleeding-edge technology, and may have technical problems along the way. Initially the pilot will be very focused and targeted to previous Podcasting users only. If the pilot is successful, then it will be made available at the enterprise level.

The ability to stream live and have interaction from remote sites is only available with the cloud-based solution. These features are not available with the on-premise system. The committee decided to recommend delaying the start of the pilot until we can use the cloud version. The hardware, software, and the cost of the cloud-based solution are basically the same as the on-premise system. Another caveat is that there would a cost increase to capture all classroom content, as the College of Business does now.

This committee will recommend that Echo360 be centrally funded as an enterprise system so that its use is not restricted only to colleges that can afford it. While Echo360 in its current version may not meet all of the ADA requirements, we could work closely with Disability Services and a third-party vendor to meet those needs. The Kaltura discussion will take place in the next meeting but one option to help address ADA issues is to use Echo360 for lecture caption and port the all of the content to Kaltura for captioning options. The committee also discussed having a two-phased pilot for Echo360; the first one to be conducted during fall semester (14FS) and followed up with an intense evaluation process and presentation to the IT Council. Then launch a subsequent pilot during spring semester (15SS) with lessons learned from the fall pilot applied. A small committee will be meeting next week to discuss and finalize a pilot proposal.

Collaborate/Lync update

UCIT decided to allow the Collaborate license to expire at the end of the contract term (July) unless Blackboard fixes the outstanding problems. Blackboard was given five specific criteria they had to meet in order for UC to continue using the product and so far they have failed to meet any of them. The Committee decided to pilot Lync as the conferencing tool for the campus. If Lync doesn't pan out, Seevogh may be the next option. Jane will forward the Lync documentation created by CAHS to the committee. Adobe Connect is another considerations but cost and scalability are issues that fall short of needs, even though it has more capabilities. Chris asked for a group of volunteers from this committee to form a small work group to pilot a full-blown conferencing solution. One of the tasks for this work group would be to resolve the issues for students to enable them to have the same user experience as faculty and staff when they use Lync.

Instruction Design Positions

Human Resources is in the process of evaluating Instructional Design type positions within the IT band, and Brian Verkamp said he has draft documents to share with the committee. He will contact HR to obtain the latest versions and forward them to committee for review and future discussion.

DECISIONS

The committee decided to let the Collaborate contract expire and recommend a two-phased pilot using Lync as the web conferencing tool for now.

ACTION ITEMS

- eLearning Committee Members – Volunteer to serve on a task force committee to pilot Lync and evaluate other possible web conferencing tools .
- eLearning Committee Members – Volunteer to serve on a committee that develops a campus-wide eLearning newsletter (send email to Jane to volunteer).
- Dani Peterson and Matt Rota – Obtain Teach Act policies and documentation from Office of General Council and lead the effort to share it with faculty, staff and students.
- Brian Verkamp – Work with HR to obtain the latest documentation for the ID position descriptions and share them with the committee.
- Jane Haniefy – Distribute CAHS Lync documentation to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.