

Education and Technology Committee

Minutes for October 1, 2015

Co-chair Steve Bounds called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The meeting was held in the College of Business Room 302b.

Committee members in attendance:

Steve Bounds, Hai Jiang, Yeonsang Hwang, Jollean Sinclair, Ethan Barnes, Julie Grady, and Henry Torres.

Minutes of September 3, 2015

Henry Torres moved to approve the minutes of September 3, 2015; Ethan Barnes seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous.

Old Business

Blackboard

At the September meeting, the committee proposed a project to assess the Blackboard LMS and explore and identify comparable solutions that provide similar or better features and functionality to positively impact faculty teaching and student learning outcomes.

The committee discussed the process of evaluating comparable learning management systems and considered how it might use a comprehensive comparison chart¹ that was provided by Henry Torres. The example chart provided detailed information from a similar LMS evaluation project conducted by a college that is comparable to AState in size, enrollment and program offerings. The comparison chart lists the features available in three learning management systems: Canvas, Desire2Learn, and Sakai.

It was suggested this chart could be expanded to include the features and functionality available in Blackboard and thus enable the committee to guide a software requirements analysis to identify important requirements and potential software vendors.

The role of the Education and Technology Committee as an advisory committee to a university functional department was discussed, and consensus was reached that this committee supports an effort to evaluate LMS options and explore opportunities for alternative solutions that may provide comparable or improved functionality and/or reduced costs. As justification for a LMS evaluation project, the committee agrees this initiative is driven by its interest in identifying the best use of student technology fees that support the ITS budget.

¹ Sante Fe College LMS Migration http://www.sfcollege.edu/lmsmigration/index.php?section=indepth_chart

Ethan Barnes proposed a resolution to request ITS to (1) provide Blackboard usage statistics, and (2) move forward with a requirements analysis of Blackboard using a comparison chart similar to that provided to the committee. The motion was seconded by Yeonsang Hwang and approved unanimously by the committee.

As the next step in this project, Henry Torres agreed to provide detailed information on the use of Blackboard by AState faculty and students.

New Business

Compressed Video Network

Henry Torres advised the university has purchased 20 licenses for Zoom video conferencing software and plans a presentation in November, and the Director of Distance Learning is preparing a grant application requesting funds to replace the CVN technology at all distance sites.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Next Meeting Scheduled

Thursday, November 5, 3:00 pm