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University Task Force on LMS and Academic Technology
Working Group on Academic Technology

Monday, January 25, 2021
1:00 – 1:40 PM

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Members: **Solman Ahmed**, *Maureen Byrne*, *Omar Dib*, **Allison Edgley**, **Cailin O'Connor Fitzpatrick**, **Jennifer Gentile**, **Rose Gonnella**, **Marshall Hayes**, Stephen Kubow (co-chair), *Eric Landaverde* (Student Representative), **Sara Maass**, **Qian (Joyce) Mao**, **Joe Marinello**, **Joy Moskovitz** (co-chair), **Christopher Rustick**, **Greg Shepherd**, **Corey Vigdor**, **Jane Webber**

In attendance (**bolded** above) 15 in attendance total
Absent (*italicized* above)

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NOTE: No agenda was circulated prior to the meeting

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<u>Recap of Existing Business</u>

Steve and Joy: Welcome back to the group. We'll allow a bit more time for people to arrive (expect more than the 12 we have at the moment).

Steve: First meeting of the new year, to bring everyone up to speed and evaluate our different LMS options. We have also been discussing with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness making a web portal or communication system available that will streamline student and faculty access to the information that we gather in our evaluations of the various sandboxes (Canvas, D2L Brightspace, Blackboard, Panopto). Following up on a meeting with Joe, the University is looking into a web portal to streamline access to information with the help of the Ofc. of Institutional Effectiveness. We'll go through this process and help inform Joe (Marinello's) decision-making and provide further long-term benefit to the university. We are thinking of a single point log-in for faculty and students, that gives everyone access to information. We'll strive to organize information better, perhaps with an icon-based interface, search functions, etc. Gillian Scott has also been helpful in this respect. We're going to work toward a comprehensive survey that captures all of this information.

Steve: Does anyone have any questions on progress to date?

Steve: Both task forces and working groups to begin evaluating sandbox Canvas and D2L Brightspace with Panopto and Ment.io modules. Everyone should have received email and access, instructions to play the role of faculty and students. Please complete the survey after doing tasks, targeting Feb 12. We're striving for an informed recommendation or ranking of LMS. You'll be given three tasks. Faculty role: Create assignment, test quiz, DQ. Student role: submit assignment, respond to discussion, etc, welcome video, upload and share. We're working toward criteria for a common evaluation.

Blackboard now going above and beyond to assist us now. We will keep them in the mix and will strive to evaluate everyone equally.

Joy: Just to clarify that Feb 12 is the submission of our responses based on our Sandbox experiences. Keep in mind that we are a pilot group. If there are questions that should be clarified or added, let us know so that we can refine the survey.

Joe: Blackboard Ally as an additional feature – allows to rate resources for accessibility, runs through LMS and is independent, a scoring system that will make technical suggestions on layout and accessibility. The system looks at fonts, color schemes, captioning, etc.

Steve: Any technical issues accessing sandbox? No issues commented on (everyone quiet).

Joy: Clarifying that we have asked for information on user experience levels.

Steve: Any other questions? We're thinking about decisions that will have an impact over a number of years.

Joy: Only one other update to share, that is details about OCIS arranging for training and demonstration sessions for immersive classroom technologies. Chris can share more information.

Chris: Yes, I just finished meeting with Marsha on hybrid tech. We had a successful initial training, and everyone is excited to use rooms moving forward. We simply need more scheduling, whether group or 1-on-1, as well as training on the hardware. There shouldn't be any issues moving forward.

Joe: Yes, we've talked before about training for faculty, and will get feedback on the faculty and student experience. We do have something now that will be helpful, based on early indications we have positive feedback.

Steve: For minutes, we'll work toward a final list of immersive technology classrooms. We have seven full build and six mobile carts. Joy will share report.

Steve: We'll focus on being much more interactive and will aim to provide a better experience in immersive learning. We hope to see progress across Skylands and Ocean as well. We hope to continue more post-COVID so that we can create a more robust experience for students.

Joe: OCIS personnel will be working directly with faculty members during demos, so that we can address issues first-hand whenever they do arise.

Rose: Will we continue with the laptop purchasing program? In the Design College, we're at a standstill, we have to do something where programs are going backwards. Need something in place for incoming class in Sept. Technology fee? Weighted for use? Please, we should continue doing that. Hardware and software progress needs to be made.

Steve: Yes, thanks Rose. Results to Joe, leading to Recommendations. Matt Caruso in Student Affairs agrees as well.

Joe: Have surveys and can deal with Financial decisions, but doesn't address Rose's issues (how do we do it). Did have conversation with the new Dir of Financial Aid. Did start the conversation. Being able to free up financial aid is a discussion… do we need a school store… These are all sorts of requirements that we need to discuss. A lot of work to do.

Steve: Maybe after Feb 12, perhaps get the committee back together and further this discussion. Leveraged into tuition. Students, administrative end, thinking about details. Support for Joy's idea of a tech store.

Joe: We have to be laser-focused, we need more effort.

Rose: Has information gathered with Ed Johnston, with options. Will pull together and will forward to committee. Will send preliminary information to Joy.

Steve: Interest is there, need to shepherd along. Any last questions. Let us know if anyone has tech issues on sandbox, talk to Solman. Will think about reconvening re: laptop program. Should be a priority for student success.

Joy: No further questions.

Steve: Thanks, and welcome back, we're looking forward to good news. We'll be in touch soon.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.