



To:	Dr. Betsy Eudey, Chair, University Educational Policies Committee
From:	Maryann Hight, Chair, Technology and Learning Subcommittee
CC:	
Date:	February 21, 2019
RE:	Campus Learning Management System review

In February 2018, a survey conducted of CSU Stanislaus faculty found that there was interest in exploring a Learning Management System other than Blackboard. Seventy-six percent of the faculty taking the survey indicated they were at least somewhat interested in the university exploring a new LMS. Consequently, a trial of Canvas, an LMS widely used in higher education, was arranged and a pilot of live courses was run in the Fall 2018 semester.

An evaluation survey of the Canvas pilot faculty was conducted in fall of 2018. Responses were overwhelmingly positive, with respondents citing its ease of use, clean and modern aesthetics, an improved grading tool, and positive responses from students. Many noted that the migration from Blackboard to Canvas as easy for the most part. Seventy-one percent of the pilot faculty preferred using Canvas to Blackboard, and 85% recommended the campus make Canvas the primary LMS on campus.

A survey of Blackboard users in February 2019 found general satisfaction with that tool because of its familiarity but without much enthusiasm for it. Respondents reported frustration with Blackboard's interface, describing it as not intuitive and clunky, particularly with the gradebook. The primary argument to continue using Blackboard as the primary campus LMS was simply that, as stated by one respondent, "I'm used to it." The time and work involved in learning a new system was also cited.

An important consideration to note is that the Canvas LMS is used system-wide in California's Community Colleges. Students transferring to CSU Stanislaus are already familiar with Canvas.

Based on the above information, Technology and Learning Subcommittee recommends to UEPC that the campus consider switching to the Canvas LMS.

It is important to understand that some Blackboard users will encounter significant challenges in converting courses to Canvas. For example, Canvas lacks native equivalents of some less-commonly used Blackboard tools, such as Journals, Blogs, and Wikis. Thus, a transition will require instructors using those tools to devise workarounds using other Canvas tools (if possible) or third-party tools outside of Canvas. Similarly, some advanced quiz question types in Blackboard are handled differently in Canvas will have to be rebuilt, if possible, using Canvas's native tools.

Maryann Hight, Chair, Technology and Learning Subcommittee
Jeffery Scales, COS



M. Blake Wilson, CAHSS
Robin Ringstad, COEKSW
Mandy (Tzu-Man) Huang, CBA
Mark Grobner, COS, member at large
Rosa Martinez, ASI Student Representative
Corey Cardoza, OIT ex-officio
Glenn Pillsbury, OIT ex-officio

Attachments:

Faculty Interest Survey 2018 (PDF)
2018 LMS Evaluation - Phase I Report Spring 2018 (PDF)
Canvas_Pilot_Evaluation_Summary Fall 2018 (PDF)
Blackboard Evaluation Survey Phase II, Part 2, 2018-2018(PDF)