MSP Board & Reps Meeting Notes

September 28, 2022

Board: Eve Weinbaum, Marc Liberatore, Sandy Litchfield, Michael Ash, Kevin Young, Paulina Borrega, Sigrid Schmalzer, Jacquie Kurland, Jeanne Bruner, Jenny Adams, Christine Turner, Clare Hammonds, Fareen Parvez, John Studenmayer, Priyanka Srivastra, Kate Hudson, Dean Robinson, Laura Francis, Jordy Rosenberg

Reps: Ela Gezen, Seth Cable, Neal Katz, Mike Knapp, Om Prakash Dhankher, Christine Hatch, Luke Bouvier, Yasuko Shiomi, Jim Hicks, John Hosp, Karen Kurczynski, Emily Heaphy, Josh Michal, Bryan Monesson-Olson, Colleen Kuusinen, Devin Day, Jennie Donohoe, Leonora Thomas, Nathaniel Whitmal, Steve Eyles, Juniper Katz

Staff: Lori Reardon, Emily Steelhammer, Brendan Sharkey

Guests: Tillman Woolf, Heather Sharpes-Smith, Alex Deschamps, Kristin Famighette

Heather Sharpes-Smith presenting on the state of the LMS at UMass Amherst
- Chancellor appointed the Flexible Learning Implementation committee
- 6 subgroups looking at different aspects of the Flexible Learning
- One of these groups is the LMS exploration group which started working in Fall 2021
- Drafted usability reports on each of the two existing LMS (Blackboard & Moodle)

Spring 2022 - Communications & Engagement Strategy
- Listening tour, students, faculty, deans
- Needs assessment - what do you need, what do you want
- Preview in faculty senate in ITCT
- Quarterly report to Chancellor

Summer 2022
- Looked at top three LMSs in the current Market (Blackboard, Moodle, Canvas)
- Small pilot, course design pilot with faculty, converted courses to Canvas. We'll be surveying both faculty and students about their experience in the pilot
- Next we will look at all the data in order to make a recommendation to Provost in mid-October
- Haven't come to a conclusion yet (although Heather herself leans towards Canvas)

Coming up
- Once a choice is made, we will work to develop an implementation strategy
- I know what these means for faculty, migrations are not fun
- Exploring "white glove migration" - "faculty won't need to lift a finger"
- Outsource migration to third party (K16 group)

- Make it as smooth and as painless as possible
- Training and support offered at every stage
- Probably be a Fall 2023 start to the transition
- 2-3 year implementation strategy

Q&A
Is open source a priority? Yes. We need to do a lot of the programming

Want to be able to see all feedback to a particular student.
Feedback and assessment, doing a deep dive into all three

What is "white glove"?
System migration. It is done in bulk. Migrate course content, then look at each course. Update or redo content that didn't come over in its entirety. Archive all of the data.

Concerned about limitations of pilot with 6 courses and 200 students - it's really different with 600 students.
- Picked smaller courses to begin with due to staffing constraints with IT. Next will do big classes.

Concerned about actually being able to migrate large homegrown test banks.

Concerned about LTIs (e.g., Gradescope) that have never been implemented in Moodle despite requests. Will it be different this time? We are doing an inventory to determine what we have and what we need in terms of LTIs. We want to be able to support you better.

Where are we really in the process? It seems like we are closer to making a decision (to move to Canvas) than fully open.

Exhausted by changes. Learning curve is huge. Saying "white glove" feels like you are downplaying the real impact on faculty. Technology is always changing - its' been 12-15 years with Moodle. We have to keep updating.

Grievances. We prefer to settle rather than file grievances, but we are very frustrated right now. Things that we would have been able to settle before, administration is not willing to, so we have filled more grievances recently. Unfortunately we aren't getting much traction. HFA in particular is a huge problem. The dean says she doesn't have any money - HFA is being told that they are running on a deficit, even though we are getting rosy budget news for the university as a whole and we rejected RCM budget processes.

Equitable Workload. Three ways to implement.
- If your department has already come up with a policy, they are all set (e.g., English, they set up a points list associated with different activities, and so many points add up to a course release.)

- A few departments have been working with Joya Misra in the ADVANCE project, a more involved and detailed process.
- Finally, for departments who haven't begun this process, there will be some templates of activities, and departments can choose one thing they can do this year to make things more equitable.

Organizing

Sign up for department meetings
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1n1NVxb0hPeGQ5Mj44hjl2Aqt7eoaeADSA7UiQv-ZWv8/edit

Signing up to meet up with non-members to have conversations. This came out of our summer retreat. Reach out to those who are on your list. MSP has some meal cards that allow you to buy people coffee or lunch. Reach out in person!

Fair Share Amendment. 43 more days. Phone banks, door knocking, lawn signs. The no campaign is ramping up. This is a pivotal moment.