The search for a new Learning Management System (LMS): Progress Report

Alan Friedman
Senate Rep to LMS Selection Exec Comm

With material provided by:
Jenna Rickus
Associate Vice Provost for Teaching & Learning

University Senate Meeting
April 15, 2019
What This IS

• As we’ll see, a necessary effort to find a replacement for our current aging LMS (Blackboard Learn) that:
  • is coming to the end of its life cycle
  • is based on old on-premises hosting technology
  • has limited functionality on mobile devices (phones and tablets)
  • I’m not sure many people ever liked very much anyway

• A highly structured effort to find a best solution across a diverse system of residential, commuter and online institutions
  • Diverse needs encompass traditional, online, hybrid courses, full-term and short courses, as well as staff, alumni, and “engaged person” training and engagement. There’s a lot going on here!

• A mechanism to provide a final report to Provost Jay Akridge & EVP-Digital Gerry McCartney, responsible for final decision.

https://www.purdue.edu/lms-review/
What This IS NOT

• An effort to impose a current solution favored by one unit on all the rest:
  • The effort was not initiated by any one institution
  • From what I’ve seen so far, it doesn’t favor any one institution
  • It has the potential to impose some disruption on all
  • I think it’s an equal opportunity plan for some necessary pain now (hopefully very little) for benefits later.

• Of course, I’m referring specifically to some belief in WL that this is driven by the desires of Purdue Global.
  • Those who’ve been in the Senate a while know I’m no fan of the acquisition of Purdue Global
    • I fear that it takes our focus off the critical job of keeping the residential university viable during a time of great change in higher ed.
What This IS NOT (cont)

• Global is certainly playing a role, but I’m happy to reassure you that I’ve not seen that Global has any inordinate influence in this LMS search.

• This is also not a rushed effort to change things for the sake of change. A year of review process. No disruption this year or AY 2019-20.
How did this get started?

- Blackboard Learn is approaching technological End of Life
  - Must choose new LMS. Cannot remain on Learn.
  - “Simply” upgrading to successor, Blackboard Ultra, not so simple. Substantial changes there.

- Meanwhile, Ongoing Trends In LMS’s
  - Cloud Based Products
  - Next Generation LMS’s available that support more functions, more convenience, better mobile
  - Blackboard Ultra, Canvas, & Brightspace D2L all major players across Big10 & HigherEd. No clear “winner” to just go with.

- So Provost Akridge & EVP McCartney asked for a comprehensive, system-wide review of the University’s Learning Management System needs and assessment of options against those needs
Review Organization: System-Level

Provost Jay Akridge & EVP Gerry McCartney

System-wide Executive Steering Committee. Jenna Rickus, Chair (Salute)

https://www.purdue.edu/lms-review/
System-Level Executive Steering Committee

- Formed in Summer of 2018
- Established a process for meeting the Provost / CIO charge
- Senate Oversight: *I was named by Senate Steering Committee last May to represent the Senate*

www.purdue.edu/lms-review/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steering Committee</th>
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</table>
| - Committee chair: **Jenna Rickus**, Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning  
  - Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering/Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering  
- **Alan Friedman**, Faculty Senate  
  - Associate Professor of Biological Sciences  
- **Bernard Tao**, Teaching Academy  
  - Professor Agricultural & Biological Engineering/Food Science  
- **Stephen Beaudoin**, Purdue West Lafayette  
  - Professor of Chemical Engineering  
  - Academic Director, Teaching and Learning Technology  
- **Heather Zamojski**, Purdue Northwest  
  - Assistant Vice Chancellor, Learning Technologies  
- **Carl Drummond**, Purdue Fort Wayne  
  - Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management  
- **David Starnes**, Purdue Global  
  - Chief Academic Officer  
- **Emma Kaye**, undergraduate student representative  
  - IT Student Advisory Council Chair  
- **Gary Johns**, graduate student representative  
  - Ph.D. student in Educational Studies  
- **Donna Cumberland**, Executive Director, Academic Computing  
- **Jason Fish**, Director of Teaching and Learning Technologies  
- **Brian York**, Project Manager, ITaP |
Review organization: System-level and By Campus

Provost Jay Akridge & EVP Gerry McCartney

System-wide Executive Steering Committee. Jenna Rickus, Chair (Salute)

Four Academic Task Forces

- Heather Zamojski (NW) Chair
- Emily Hixon NW Lead
- Andy Hirsch (Once Again) WL Lead
- Adam Dircksen FW Lead
- Lisa Wallace Global Lead

Ft Wayne Task Force

One system-wide Technology Task Force

- Rita Wilson Chair
- Jason Fish (Yeoman)

Technology Task Force

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WL Campus Task force
Representation & Process

- Case Study Approach
  - Modelled after Univ. Wisc. Process

WL Chair: Andy Hirsch

Reps* from:
- Engineering
- Education
- Agriculture
- Pharmacy
- Libraries
- Science
- Liberal Arts
- Vet Med
- Management
- Honors
- HHS
- Krannert

*Full roster at:
www.purdue.edu/lms-review/
Consistent Concerns From Feedback Guiding Academic Review

- Ability to transition content from previously created Blackboard Learn courses
- Easy transition from the old system to the new (gentle learning curve)
- Mobile-device compatibility
- Easy to use and intuitive interface
- Collaboration workspaces
- Easier acceptance and implementation of third party tools
## Where are we? Timeline

**Completed:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create Campus Task Force</td>
<td>August - September 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Surveys for Campus Input (~500)</td>
<td>September – November 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Four WL Listening Sessions (141 people)</td>
<td>September - November, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create Case Studies &amp; Define Criteria</td>
<td>November, 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop/Issue RFP</td>
<td>December, 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Vendors -&gt; Campus Visits, Demos (&amp; online)</td>
<td>March, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Natalie and I attended each, &gt;1000 evals)</td>
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All completed on schedule!

**In process:**

- Vendor Evaluation

**To be completed:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Product Selection and Announcement</td>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earliest Possible Implementation</td>
<td>Probably Fall, 2020</td>
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Where are we? Timeline
QUESTIONS?

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