

Blackboard Advisory Group Minutes: 2-10-2006

Perkins Library Breedlove, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Attending: Wayne Miller, Lenore Ramm, Brian Cooper, Phillip Baton, Steven Grambow, Neal Caidin (convener), Scott Campbell (for Stacy McCorison)

1. Moving Bb to new disk system - 24 hour outage coming soon -

Most likely in a 24 hour window sometime between March 15 - 17. Will keep you posted and/or get input from the group if OIT provides options.

2. Upgrade to Blackboard called "App Pack 3"

Plan is an upgrade for Summer. We are on Blackboard 6 and App Pack 2. This is Blackboard, Inc.'s terminology for their releases. This particular upgrade adds a lot of functionality. I will schedule either brown bags or some other way to provide you with an opportunity for a sneak preview.

3. Bb Course Retention Policy

Status – Received feedback from ASTEC (Q4 last year) and ITAC (Jan '06). Hoping to have a policy within a year. More input wanted from faculty who use Blackboard. Exploring what might make the process for faculty to manage their content.

4. DDI update

No performance issues of which we are aware for Duke Digital Initiative which is using large files, for audio especially, in Blackboard. Planning on raising the file size quota, probably Fall 06 timeframe, in Blackboard based on what we learn from the DDI experience.

5. Blackboard-Peoplesoft Gradebook plug-in

We added a plug-in that was available for end of term Fall 2005 final grades. The plug-in allows one to pick a column of grades in Blackboard and export it in a CSV format that is compatible with the STORM tool (front end to Peoplesoft) for uploading a batch of grades. Unreliable with Blackboard's "Weighted Grade" column; and need to identify how to handle Pass/Fail (non-letter grade) requirements.

6. Lectopia plug-in (aka building block) status

Lectopia is a system for capturing streaming audio lectures. Looking to integrate with Blackboard to make it easy for instructors to share their streaming audio through Blackboard with their students.

7. Brownstone EDU plug-in (aka building block) status

Brownstone EDU is an advanced assessment tool. It has the ability to run on its own or within Blackboard using building blocks technology. We are planning on a pilot of the tool for Summer or Fall 2006 timeframe. Will soon be in the recruitment phase to identify faculty to participate in pilot.

8. Suggestions for future agenda items

None offered at this meeting