



## **Blackboard Advisory Group Minutes: 8-15-2005**

*Perkins Library Room 226, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.*

Attending: Kristy Chu, Leigh Jay Hicks, Denise Comer, Jean Ferguson, Wayne Miller, Peter Harrell, Susan Shaw, Dan Graham, Stacy McCarrison, Bill Burig, Greg Fitzmaurice, Greta Boers, Neal Caidin (convener/ note taker)

### **1. Announcements**

Applications Specialist Search in progress. Job summary “The Applications Specialist provides leadership for technical operations, support, and development of Duke's Learning Management System (LMS), which currently is Blackboard, and assists with other CIT technical needs. S/He is a member of the Center for Instructional Technology’s staff and reports to the Applications Manager”

Pilot Planning of Brownstone EDU – assessment tool with plug-in to integrate with Blackboard. Status – underway.

Learning Objects TeamsLX (wiki-like tool) and JournalLX (blog-like tool) – procurement process underway and plan to have in place sometime during Fall term. Date to be determined.

### **2. General discussion “What should be the direction of the Bb Advisory Group?”**

**This is a summary of points that the convener/note taker heard.**

#### **Benefits of Being on Advisory Board**

- \* Early notice of upcoming plans with Blackboard
- \* Input in Blackboard policy decisions

#### **Issues that Emerged in Discussion**

- \* Faculty involvement on Bb Advisory Group (currently some representation) - can be challenging to engage faculty. Do they need their own forum for input into Bb environment at Duke? One strategy suggested was to engage faculty on a project by project basis in focus groups on a case-by-case basis.
- \* Student involvement on Bb Advisory Group (currently no representation) - can also be challenging to involve students. Their daytime schedules tend to be hectic and some students would probably prefer to have meetings at night as a result. Questions about student orientation to and training in BB came up and group would like information about how incoming students are introduced to BB.
- \* Tools testing – was suggested as a possible contribution the Bb Advisory group could make. Testing new Bb or LMS-related tools to get familiar with them. This could be a win/win if we get volunteers to help in the functional testing of new releases, for Bb team to get feedback on the usefulness of new features and for core of folks to already be "trained" and be able to get the word out and train others on features.
- \* Suggestion to use Bb Organization site to have ongoing discussion of issues between meetings

\* Marketing Blackboard - seemed to be a strong sentiment that it would be a good use of time to lower the bar to make it easier for new instructors to get started with the Blackboard system. A suggestion is to create a one pager (perhaps use some combination of existing CIT materials) on "What you need to know to get started".

\* Show and tells and knowledge sharing - we discussed offering forums for different departments to share how they are using Blackboard. Also, use of time could be demo'ing a software tool. This could be a new tool for the whole group to consider or how a department is using some particular tool which they would like to share. Another aspect of knowledge sharing is for a department to bring its problems / issues to the group for discussion.

\* Training / support suggestion - focus more effort on training directors / staff / administrative assistants instead of depending on CIT to provide all the training for Blackboard.