Teaching and Learning Constituent Group
Meeting Minutes

Session: Thursday, October 3, 4:55 – 6:10 p.m. (24 participants)

Facilitators: Joan Falkenberg Getman, Assistant Director, Distributed Learning Services
Cornell University
Phillip D. Long, Senior Strategist for the Academic Computing Enterprise, MIT

Format of the Session:
10 minutes post-its of topics of interest
10 minutes introduction to CG and goal for this meeting
40 minutes of group discussions
10 minutes of sharing from small group discussions

Set-up categories within which attendees could post topics:
- Assessment of Learning Outcomes (facilitated by John Harwood)
- Designing Online Course Elements (facilitated by Jean)
- Project Management (facilitated by Nikki Reynolds)
- Course Management Systems (facilitated by Mike MIT)
- Redesign of large courses (facilitated by Alicia – NE Univ)
- ? facilitated by Linda Jorn

Asked people to list major challenges, barriers and to be specific for the small group discussions
Asked what they are looking for:
- Tools? SW/HW?
- Knowledge, skills, fill service gaps
- Resources
- Additional and different tracks at conference

Goal: clarify the issues of interest to the group and any recommendations they could make

Identify action items
Identify focused questions to pose to the list
Identify research questions for ECAR

TOPIC DISCUSSIONS NOTES

CMS Discussion
1. Not enough real teaching is happening: there’s a lot of “shovel-ware”
2. Vendors are often modeling poor pedagogy (ie too much online testing – use of a feature because it is there
3. Need training for instructors on how to effectively use CMS
4. Integrating student information systems and legacy data with CMS
5. Leverage the power of EDUCAUSE to make these systems more affordable for small institutions
6. Supporting multiple CMS on campus including Bb, WebCT, First Class, Prometheus and their homegrown products
7. A study on the strengths and weaknesses of the available software will be useful
8. Theoretical models for teaching with CMS
9. Redesign of courses to take advantage of Bb
10. Discounts on pricing and user group support
11. Spreading use of Bb working school by school and big course by big course to implement
12. Blackboard’s simple interface for non-techie users
13. Blackboard is effective as a course management system but…
14. Providing one…
15. workshops on how to assist faculty to think/learn about good pedagogy before CMS, during and probably after
16. Summarize the research and how to apply

Project Management Discussion
Need guidelines on how to form teams – team building and team management
Project components are varied and wide

Tools:
  ACTION ITEM: Identify good project management tools (Share from Liverpool presentation)
What about PMI as a training resource (Oklahoma state poster session)
Price Waterhouse offers consulting
Tools:
  MS Project
  AEC fast track is cross-platform
Tools: what’s missing form current MS Project?
  Identify features specific to our needs as instructional designers and developers and share that information with leading vendors.
  ACTION ITEM: Collect features and share tools
How are production groups organized? – Looking for models.
Project management: skills, tools and methods for taking a project form design to implementation
Is there potential for a consortia development project to create the right tools ourselves?
Tools: xml based, Stella?
Process: share ideas about accountability
Hear from other academic units about their project management process and recommendations.
Obstacles: workflow

Designing Online Course Elements Discussion
Need for tools for authoring and managing (LMS) – easy to use!
Resources for learning what others are doing
Support from EDUCAUSE in these areas:
  1. Compilation of existing discipline-specific peer reviews of online course elements, authoring tools, managing tools, etc.
  2. Survey of best practices for designing online course elements
  3. Instructional design support group and web site to post information like that listed above.

Topics
  3rd party neutral review or evaluations of learning object repository
  Study of support for online instructional design (especially mastery or competency-based learning)
  Research on effective use of learning objects and streaming media
  Instructional design with technology
  Interactive P2P technology

  Learning technology teams help facilitate professors on what they might do
  Centralized process and use of learning designers in a team environment
  Expectations for computer use by students and faculty growing

CMS is limiting instructional design for online courses. Design follows the CMS, rather than the CMS following the design
Need an authoring environment to relate all the pieces
Getting professors interested in teaching online.

Summaries:
Assessment
Most institutions have no assessment plan
- e-Portfolios offer a fulcrum for change
- Change cultural practice – going beyond quizzes and grading

Redesign of Large Enrollment Classes
- Scaling from small to large environments
- How to replace contact with students

Project Management
- Strategies needed for building teams with disparate levels of skills and accountability

Designing Online course elements
- How to share activity in this area?
- Web site with surveys and resources
- Survey of best practices

CMS
- How to use them more effectively
- Summary of good pedagogy – models of best practices

Other Issues
- Study on how you can support the use of multimedia in teaching when staff are short
- Study on models that support faculty that are scalable
- How can an IT organization best facilitate faculty use of technology in courses? Who leads?
- Help leaders understand the need for investment in promoting teaching and learning strategies
- Greater care should be done filtering proposed talks for being “old news.”
- Need a list of birds-of-a-feather sessions posted during the conference
- It would be nice to see a list of schools who are collaborating and the focus of the collaboration
- Directory of schools doing research or other neat things to build collaboration among them.
- Better models of multimode learning
- It would be nice to see a list of schools who are collaborating and the focus of their collaboration.
- Help shifting students toward responsibility for their own learning.
- Digital assets management software/standards.

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