

Minutes - eLearning Council Meeting

Thursday, April 15, 2021 | 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Via Zoom

Attendees: Justin Louder, Kathy Austin, Melanie Hart, Celia Merrill, David Doerfert, Jody Roginson, John R. Thomas, Leslie DeBusk, Jameshia Granberry, Jongpil Cheon, Liz Beaty, Michael Carter for Pat McConnell, Cary Sallee, Dennis Arnett, Lisa Leach, Clay Taylor, Vickie Sutton, Larry Phillippe, Karissa Greathouse, Mahyar Hadighi, Stephanie Shine, Sandra Huston, Lewis Snell, Marcus Tanner, Otto Ratheal, Suzanne Tapp, Katie Randolph

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Dr. Justin Louder
- II. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Dr. David Doerfert made a motion to approve, and Dr. Marcus Tanner seconded. Minutes from the previous eLearning Council Meeting, held on 3/25/21, were approved.
- III. **New Distance Program Approvals and Changes**
 - a. **Concentration in Energy:** Dr. Doerfert spoke on the Concentration in Energy. Dr. Tanner made a motion to approve, and Ms. Suzanne Tapp seconded. The proposal will be voted on in the next Graduate Academic Subcommittee Meeting.
- IV. **Blackboard Course Names for the Summer:** Ms. Leslie DeBusk and Mr. John R. Thomas provided a demonstration on Blackboard Course Names for the Summer. Ms. DeBusk updated the course names in Blackboard to be more descriptive so students registering can better identify when each course begins. To minimize any disruption in the current semester, IT and Blackboard plan to make this change during the break between the Spring and Summer I semesters. There should be no down time. This will not impact students unless they are in intersession courses. This will be implemented the third week of May and notifications will be sent out beforehand.

Dr. Tanner asked that if it was possible to also differentiate Intersession courses. Students have difficulty registering for courses with several sections. Updating the intersession course names will make it clearer to understand. Mr. Thomas will speak with IS and the registrar and post the problem. Once it is fixed in Banner, it will then automatically be fixed in Blackboard. eLearning and IT will work with the registrar's office, IS, and the Academic Council to facilitate a long-term solution. eLearning will update the intersession course names this summer as a short-term solution.

- V. **OpenStax Institutional Partnership:** Mr. Ryan Litsey spoke on OpenStax Institutional Partnership. This is a program designed to give mentorship and leadership in developing strategic planning and efforts for Open Educational Resources on the TTU campus. Two faculty members who are willing to participate are needed. Participants will receive a \$500 stipend. Participants will work with Mr. Litsey and others in the group to adopt OER efforts on campus. Participants will need to dedicate 5-15 hours a week and attend meetings. Dr. Louder will represent as a primary contact and a team member on the Provost level. Dr. Sandra Huston will serve as a team member. Dr. Kathy Austin will serve as a resource team

member. If you know of any faculty that may be interested in being a primary contact or team member, please contact Mr. Litsey.

- VI. *Blackboard Updates & Blackboard Mobile:*** Mr. John R. Thomas spoke on Blackboard Updates. All Summer course shells are now available. Usage of third-party products and integrations within the Blackboard environment have continued to be reviewed. IT is working on setting up a mechanism where they can monitor usage of which products are being utilized within Blackboard and will notify the group of the results. IT continues to manage products in a way that is most effective and most available for faculty. The university is scheduled to transition to UltraNav course view in December of 2021.
- VII. *Faculty Survey Results:*** Dr. Austin gave a demonstration on the Faculty Survey Results. This survey was created with contributions provided by the Office of the Provost, IT, eLearning, the TLPDC, the Student Engagement Assessment team and the Blackboard Collaborate Review team. The survey was created to write requirements on how faculty are using engagement tools and products as well as conducting an evaluation of what video conferencing tools are being used and how. The survey includes questions regarding recording, where faculty store lectures, solution ratings, classroom engagement tools, and student engagement tools. This survey is to find out how faculty are using these tools. Once the group finds out how specific tools are being used, they will be able to create requirements around that. The survey covered different technologies that were used during the pandemic. Quantitative analysis was completed, and qualitative analysis will be finished soon. Some group analysis was conducted, and analytics may be added to the survey later. This survey is open to all faculty for review. After the survey is presented to various groups and adjustments are made in terms of what analytics are run, the survey will become available for campus using Raiderlink credentials. IR and Data Science generated this survey by using analytics in a statistics package, importing the data into Power BI, and using the dashboard tool to display the analytics. IT is interested in feedback about the content as well as the modality. So that the survey would not require a Power BI license, IT published it to an eRaider protected website. The survey went to Instructors of Record, and all faculty included tenure faculty.
- VIII. *TopHat Migration Plan & Student Responseware:*** Dr. Austin spoke on the TopHat Migration Plan & Student Responseware. Dr. Austin will convene and facilitate a campus group that will be largely academic, to create an integration plan of migration to TopHat once the final contract is completed. Top Hat will be the only classroom engagement response solution offered in Blackboard. If a faculty member would like to use a different tool, a student cannot be charged for it and no funds from the student fee can be used for the purchase.
- IX. *May & Summer Meetings:*** Dr. Louder spoke on May & Summer Meetings. Dr. Louder asked the Council if they would like to convene in May or wait until June. The eLearning Council voted to reconvene May 20, 2021.
- X. *Open Discussion:*** Dr. Louder notified the Council that The Texas State University System will be hosting a Faculty Development Day for Digital Education in June 2021. This will include presenters from the Texas State system. It will consist of multiple sessions for system

instructors focused on best practices and methodologies for teaching web-enhanced, blended, and online courses. It is free to attend.

Dr. Stephanie Shine recognized a conference that was offered by Ms. Jody Roginson and the TLPDC on Digital Storytelling. Participants who attended learned how to make a digital storytelling with WeVideo and Flip Grid to use in their synchronous and asynchronous courses starting from scratch. Dr. Louder asked that Ms. Roginson send information regarding the next conference so that he may share it with the Council.

XI. *Adjourn:* Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.