Teaching and Learning with Technology -- Madison Advisory Group Resolution on Canvas LMS

Adopted on March 16, 2016

I. **TLT-MAG holds that any and all decisions regarding the adoption, integration and support of learning management systems should be driven by a clear campus commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.** Any transition to a new learning management system (LMS) or away from existing LMS's should enhance excellence in teaching and learning; minimize disruptions to student learning and to the teaching efforts of faculty and staff; support continued innovation in teaching and learning; and be informed by data on LMS and digital tool use on campus.

II. **TLT-MAG supports and encourages the transition to a single, fully integrated and centrally supported learning management system.** Student input and survey data indicates widespread frustration with the use of multiple LMS's on campus and a clear preference for a single LMS. In addition, moving to a single LMS will provide certainty and clarity for faculty and staff engaged in instructional design and redesign; reduce the cost of maintaining multiple LMS's; and take advantage of efficiencies in support and integration.

III. **TLT-MAG supports the adoption of Canvas as the only fully integrated and centrally supported learning management system at UW-Madison.** UW-Madison has now engaged in extensive study of Canvas, including pilot studies. In those pilot studies, faculty, staff and students used Canvas in a variety of courses and provided feedback. The results of these investigations indicate that, although some gaps in functionality remain to be addressed, the functionality of Canvas compares favorably to that of the two LMS's currently centrally supported on campus (Desire2Learn and Moodle). Canvas holds particular promise for learning analytics and for the sharing,

discovery, and integration of digital content from disparate systems. These possibilities are in turn enhanced by UW-Madison's membership in the Unizin consortium, many other members of which have already adopted Canvas. The Unizin consortium also ensures that UW-Madison will have meaningful opportunities to provide input to Instructure, the Canvas vendor, to encourage mitigation of functional gaps in Canvas.

IV. **TLT-MAG emphasizes the need to provide ample support for faculty, staff and students for the transition to Canvas and to allocate sufficient resources to provide that support.**   Timely transition to a new LMS must be balanced with the challenges associated with that transition. TLT-MAG supports a 24-month transition period, at the end of which the digital components of all or nearly all courses on campus should be offered through Canvas. During that period, support for transition should be provided in a way that ensures the continued quality of all courses. Those courses that make extensive use D2L or Moodle should be of particular concern in providing support. No course should face mandatory transition until it can be ensured that Canvas functionality will meet the pedagogical needs of the course and until support for performing such transition is provided to the supervising faculty. As transition proceeds, faculty and staff should receive clear, consistent and frequent communication about Canvas, its features, and when Canvas and its various functionalities will be available. These communications should include information on best practices for faculty and staff currently creating new courses--especially new online courses--using Desire2Learn and Moodle.

Issues for Discussion. Vote

1.   Mandatory use of Canvas:

Section IV, TLT-MAG resolution implies mandatory use of Canvas as a management learning system/course web-site:

> "TLT-MAG supports a 24-month transition period, at the end of which the digital components of ==all or nearly all courses on campus should be offered through Canvas==."

> "No course should ==face mandatory transition== until it can be ensured that Canvas functionality will meet the pedagogical needs of the course and until support for performing such transition is provided to the supervising faculty."

Question:
Should the use of Canvas be mandatory?

If **not mandatory**:

A.   Proposed addition to the resolution:

> "The adoption of Canvas by faculty and instructional staff is not mandatory. However, UW-Madison will not provide support for non-Canvas learning management systems or course web-sites."

B.   Replace (TLT-MAG, Section IV):

"TLT-MAG supports a 24-month transition period, at the end of which the digital components of all or nearly all courses on campus should be offered through Canvas."

With:

"ITC supports a 24-month transition period, at the end of which the digital components of all or nearly all courses on campus that elect to adopt Canvas should be offered through Canvas."

C.   Replace (TLT-MAG, Section IV):

"No course should face mandatory transition until it can be ensured that Canvas functionality will meet the pedagogical needs of the course and until support for performing such transition is provided to the supervising faculty."

With:

"No course that elects to adopt Canvas should face mandatory transition until it can be ensured that Canvas functionality will meet the pedagogical needs of the course and until support for performing such transition is provided to the supervising faculty."

2.   Gaps, Deficiencies, and Structure to Resolve Them

Add the following sections to the resolution?

"ITC emphasizes the need to address existing and future gaps in the functionality of Canvas as well as other deficiencies, resolve these issues effectively and in a timely manner, and address concerns of stakeholders. Examples: mathematics-based features and STEM-based assessment features available in Moodle. To this end:

A.   A central repository of gaps and deficiencies should be maintained.

B.   A structure to resolve gaps and deficiencies should be created, including:

- Development team to resolve gaps and enhance functionality.
- Adequate resources should be allocated to this process."

3.   Replace (TLT-MAG, Section III):

"The results of these investigations indicate that, although some gaps in functionality remain to be addressed, the functionality of Canvas compares favorably to that of the two LMS's currently centrally supported on campus (Desire2Learn and Moodle)."

With:

"The results of these investigations indicate that the core functionality of Canvas accommodates the teaching and learning needs of the majority of courses offered at the UW-Madison. Canvas has clear advantages in most key areas. It has a clean and intuitive layout and format, is easy to use, provides for better interaction with instructors and other students, and for better engagement with course material. Its components strongly support the requirements of distance learning and hybrid environments. It is an upcoming next generation LMS."
"Yet, there are gaps and other deficiencies in functionality that should be addressed effectively in the implementation process."

Information Technology Committee
Agenda

Date: Friday, March 18, 2016
Start/End Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: Computer Science Room 3139 (1210 W Dayton St.)

Time	Agenda Item	Who	Length
10:00 AM	Welcome and Minute Review	Rafi Lazimy	5 min
10:05 AM	CIO/COO updates	Bruce Maas	10 min
10:15 AM	LMS Discussion/Resolution	Rafi Lazimy/Bruce Maas	45 min
11:00 AM	Wrap-up	Rafi Lazimy	5 min

Next Meeting: Friday, April 15, 2016 – Location: Computer Science Room 3139