Unizin – unizin.org

What is it: a consortium of 11 large public R-1 institutions and 2 statewide system focused on T&L technology – often described as like-minded institutions with similar goals, similar missions

Current membership: Indiana University, University of Michigan, Colorado State University, University of Iowa, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska System, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Minnesota, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Ohio State University, University of Florida, and the University of Florida System.

Current student enrollment: ~700,000

Governance: Board of Directors with each founding institution having a single vote (board members are Steve Cramer, voting member, and Linda Jorn). Membership is a provost level decision. Current CEO is Amin Qazi. Unizin has about 20 staff and has a headquarters in Austin, TX. Consortium members provide campus professionals to work on projects, product development and pilots. A large T&L group, consisting of 2-4 team members from each Unizin member, reports to the Board of Directors and meets twice a year.

Benefits of Consortium/Unizin membership:

- Collective wisdom and creativity of the consortium to help us design and own our University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Digital Ecosystem.
- Leveraging efforts from other consortium members rather than always doing it in-house.
- Products that conform to the philosophy and the direction of the consortium.
- Favorably pricing and contract terms that meet the philosophy of the consortium.

Philosophy of the Unizin Consortium:

- Institutional and consortium control of teaching and learning data
- Standards, interoperability, security, openness of technology, combining tools together to enable and personalize teaching and learning. Avoiding proprietary monoliths.
- Use of teaching and learning data to realize the effectiveness of teaching techniques and learning responses.
- Cross-institutional collaborations allow us to leverage the collective wisdom of higher education to build University of Wisconsin – Madison scalable digital learning environments that will improve access, affordability, and learner success.
Differences between a consortium and a vendor:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Consortium</th>
<th>Vendors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motivation</strong></td>
<td>Academic solutions to address common opportunities</td>
<td>Profit and market share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data</strong></td>
<td>Retain control of institutional data and use it to refine direction and strategy</td>
<td>Collect to refine proprietary products, provide new services and potentially sell data back to client</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Products**   | • Iterative design and build process which will lead to new campus tool adoption processes.  
                  • Well leveraged and negotiated contracts and pricing  
                  • Ability to participate in entire product lifecycle development | • Polished products to drive sales                                      |
| **Cost**       | • Membership fee but lower price on products.  
                  • Assignment of campus professionals to participate in consortium product development, pilots, and partnership activities. | • No membership fee but higher product prices  
                  • Due diligence to ensure products meet campus requirements |
| **Collaboration** | The belief that the best ideas come from diverse teams and the collective wisdom of the higher education community | Promote competition and proprietary tools that slow down the adoption and implementation of technology |