Learning Management System

What will happen to our system?

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The Learning Management System (LMS) is the program that Longwood University uses to post grades and power points to the site. Currently, Longwood University is using blackboard, which is under evaluation to be changed. Longwood recently selected a committee to review the different systems. There are three systems that Longwood is reviewing Blackboard, Desire to Learn, and Canvas.

Dr. Jeannine Perry dean of the college of graduate and professional studies said, “We did an open application, and we invited anybody to apply and anybody that applied we decided to be on the committee. We have a committee of 16 people. We decided to take everyone who applied.”

Perry said, “The Committee will be reviewing the presentations that are posted to the blog; they’ll go back and review those. They will do an evaluation of the different sites. By this Friday we will have sandboxes set up which are test are test areas for each LMS. Everybody is invited to play with those but the committee has to go and play with them and there will be another evaluation for those. The main thing is to let students and faculty know that this is open to everyone to tryout and participate in so the more input we the easier the committee will have, and then we will probably talk to some of the schools that already have the systems we are looking at. We would talk to them see if they like their transition and see if we like the product. The President and the Provo’s will play a big role in weather we stick with blackboard or change to another system . . . The Committee is only recommending and reviewing.”

Anybody can review the different systems. They will be on the blog site for review starting Friday Nov.30.until Jan 5. It will be at this address on those dates. http://blogs.longwood.edu/lmsreview

Jenny Quarles, director of DEC training and instruction, “We, the Digital Education Collaborative (DEC) had opportunity to go to conferences over the last year about a variety of new systems that have come on the market that we aren’t familiar with because we have used blackboard for so long. We got to talk to a lot of two and four year schools all across the country that are using newer versions of blackboard or other systems.”

Looking at other LMS Longwood has found that there is an opportunity for change in the system that Longwood currently has. Perry said, “We have had our current LMS blackboard for over 14 years. When Dr.Moore was CIO over in ITS, and some IT people and DEC people have been to conferences together, just looking at different venders we realized that there might be different venders much better than what we are using and much cheaper.

The learning style has changed since Longwood has acquired Blackboard and is now looking for something that is more pleasing to the eye. Longwood is trying to start to use more interactive learning styles such as using social media styles to learn. ”We are looking for something is a lot more interactive more social media and may be at a more reasonable price . . .we are also looking for better service because right now that service isn’t that good for blackboard.”

Longwood is going to try to make this as smooth process as possible for both the students and the faculty. Perry said, “We want to make a decision by the end of February, we need to do that because we are going to re-negotiate payment and because we need to transfer all the courses. We would probably start in the summer with the new system, we would want the people teaching in the summer to get trained and get the courses built in the new system and by fall if there is a new system everybody would come back to the new system.”

Perry said, “We want the system to be up a lot so we don’t lose minimal downtime, interaction social media kinds of things, so that students are more active in the class not just stagnate, easy for the faculty to transfer their blackboard classes into the new one . . . We don’t want poor service; we don’t want to host it here on campus we want it out in the cloud so we want it virtually hosted which helps the downtime not be so bad, and we want something that looks inviting.”

Perry said, “Our main goal is to pick out a really good learning management system and then we’ll talk about price.”

Quarles said, “In the past Longwood has been a little slow to adapt to technology and this is our opportunity to move forward and be on the cutting edge with other institutions who adapt technology faster. We have an opportunity to come in and be a leader and say we really worked hard at this and this is what we think is important.”

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