

Faculty Senate LMS Feedback Form

RESPONSES BY QUESTION

1. After discussing the LMS/Ed Tech Survey summary report/video in your faculty senate meeting (or similar body), please indicate the general sentiment towards the following:

[More Details](#)

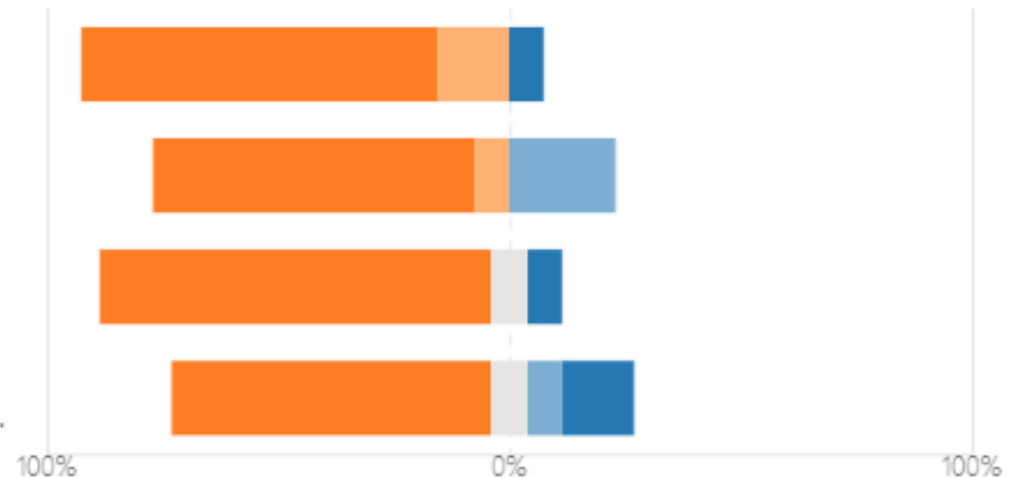
■ More than 2/3 are in agreement ■ Between 1/2-2/3 in agreement ■ Between 1/3 and 1/2 in agreement
■ Less than 1/3 in agreement ■ Neutral

RECOMMENDATION 1 . Blackboard contract be renewed for a 1-year term with conditions.

RECOMMENDATION 2. An RFP be established to explore the LMS market and determine if there is a...

RECOMMENDATION 3. Enhanced training and support for faculty and students.

RECOMMENDATION 4. The implementation of basic LMS Best Practices initiatives on campuses to promo...



1. After discussing the LMS/Ed Tech Survey summary report/video in your faculty senate meeting (or similar body), please indicate the general sentiment towards the following:

| Name | Responses | | | |
|------|--|---|---|---|
| | RECOMMENDATION 1 . Blackboard contract be renewed for a 1-year term with conditions. | RECOMMENDATION 2. An RFP be established to explore the LMS market and determine if there is a product that can better meet faculty and students' needs. | RECOMMENDATION 3. Enhanced training and support for faculty and students. | RECOMMENDATION 4. The implementation of basic LMS Best Practices initiatives on campuses to promote consistent, student-friendly user experiences that will enhance ease of use for our students. |
| MXCC | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement |
| HCC | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement |
| CCSU | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement |
| TXCC | More than 2/3 are in agreement | Less than 1/3 in agreement | Between 1/3 and 1/2 in agreement | Between 1/3 and 1/2 in agreement |
| MCC | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement |
| COSC | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | Neutral |
| SCSU | Between 1/2-2/3 in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | Less than 1/3 in agreement |
| NWCC | Between 1/2-2/3 in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement |
| ECSU | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement |
| TRCC | More than 2/3 are in agreement | Between 1/2-2/3 in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement |
| NXCC | | | | |
| CACC | More than 2/3 are in agreement | Less than 1/3 in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement | More than 2/3 are in agreement |

2. Please let us know some of the thoughts discussed in the meeting about RECOMMENDATION 1 - EXTENDING Bb CONTRACT ONE YEAR.

| Name | Agreement Level | Responses |
|------|------------------|--|
| MXCC | More than 2/3 | There were no comments specific to the contract extension. |
| HCC | More than 2/3 | • Current Contract renewal 6/2019 (we needed to know this fact before voting) • Have Blackboard contract and yearlong pilots. • Renew Blackboard for a year and develop an RFP within months, not years. • Encourage Individual campuses to explore optional LMS Systems. |
| CCSU | More than 2/3 | There was concern about the poor app for the iPhone with BB. There was a question about if this would mean that it would only be year and then the contract would be over without renewal possibility, and it was explained that it could be renewed again. Question about if it would cost more to go with a one-year contract vs multiyear, and it was explained that the answer seemed to be no. There was a question of how much we pay each year, but the answer was not available. A question on what would happen if they did not meet the conditions, or only partially met the conditions, and it was explained that we could decide how to handle that. A question on if we should move to their new version of Ultra, and it was explained that there seemed to be little interest. |
| TXCC | More than 2/3 | - I prefer to continue with our current BBL - I think it is a good idea - since we are familiar with BBL. - The majority of the responses want to continue with Blackboard and would agree to renew the contract for one year. - The recommendation of a 1-year contract with Blackboard seems fine as a way of focusing attention on areas that users indicated need improvement. - Only 2 responded and said they wouldn't mind extending the contract. One response was that Bb does what they and their students need it to do currently. One responded that they are not in favor of Bb at all, but the extension buys time to investigate other options. |
| MCC | More than 2/3 | An extension of more than 1 year would be better |
| COSC | More than 2/3 | The faculty feel they would need more time to implement and explore new systems. |
| SCSU | Between 1/2- 2/3 | Question about current contract duration answered by Trever Broliar, Director of Academic Technology |
| ECSU | More than 2/3 | I think it should be a problem to suddenly drop blackboard in light of eportfolio submissions (with no warning and no obvious replacement). Dropping Bb without alternatives lined up is a disaster. For any of these, what will be the "tech" support"? We should stay with Bb but provide faculty development for better use. Due to time, it may be best to extend contract. Continue use of Blackboard, additional faculty training would be important. Blackboard is clunky and outdated. Im sure there are alternatives, lets explore. Portfolios for promotion and tenure are currentlyt being done in blackboard, is there a plan in place for handling portfolios? Use this 1 year to explore others. |
| TRCC | More than 2/3 | -There is skepticism regarding Blackboard's ability to address concerns about persistent bugs. -Blackboard has not worked to improve their product; we are doing the work and committing our resources to improve their product. |
| CACC | More than 2/3 | Recommendation by Capital's Senate to extend Bb contract. |

3. Please let us know some of the thoughts discussed in the meeting about RECOMMENDATION 2 - ESTABLISHING AN RFP TO EXPLORE THE LMS MARKET.

| Name | Agreement Level | Responses |
|------|-----------------|--|
| MXCC | More than 2/3 | Some faculty expressed the opinion that there would be something about any system that was not satisfying. Some stated a preference for retaining a familiar system vs. a new system that would have unknown problems. |
| HCC | More than 2/3 | • Include open-source LMS systems. • Investigate possibility of using different LMS Systems for different disciplines. |
| CCSU | More than 2/3 | Question was raised about if there were migration tools to ease transfer of material from BB to other LMS, and a suggestion that this be part of the RFP requirement. Question about the cost of commercial LMS versus open source LMS, particularly in light of our budget crises. |
| TXCC | Less than 1/3 | - undecided - Also check with others to see how various LMS are user friendly. ie Canvas- my daughter is taking an online course at a Vermont College and says it is user friendly for students. - Only two people in the department would be interested in looking for another LMS. - One of our instructors polled his students after doing the suggested reorganization with new folders and they love the way Blackboard is organized. But this can be achieved in any LMS. He thinks we need to look into Google Classroom as it is FREE, students tend to use Google in high school, more people are buying Chromebooks as they are less expensive and virtually virus-free. - Another said she would be happy if the next yearly subscription to Blackboard was the last year. There have to be other LMS options with more intuitive interfaces for students and instructors. - The 2 responses received said they would like to establish an RFP and specifically mentioned Google Classroom. |
| COSC | More than 2/3 | The faculty would like to see what other options are available. |
| SCSU | More than 2/3 | There was a request to allow both students and faculty to actually experiment with replacement candidate software. There is a concern about ensuring accurate representations by vendors about a product's capabilities. |
| NWCC | More than 2/3 | Responses from Faculty: I believe the amount of time to invest in another system and the amount of course redesign and training is greatly underestimated. The grass is not always greener. These recommendations are sensible. If there is a better product out there we should consider it to best serve our students. I find Blackboard very easy to use and a productive and effective tool for delivering course content, providing links, and keeping students engaged. My preference would be to stick with Blackboard. However, I understand why researching other LMS's may be prudent. Blackboard is too complex to execute simple tasks. There are many LMS in the market that are much more user-friendly and more oriented to instruction. |
| ECSU | More than 2/3 | Canvas can be good sub. Always good to see whats out there. A waste of time and resources. Not a |

| | | |
|------|-----------------|---|
| | | good user of resources. There are more intuitive LMS, such as Moode, that may be a better fit for Eastern. Please include student representation on any future committees This idea of an LMS should be to make content distribution simple and accessible, as well as reliable. The more this is emphasized, the better. Allow faculty and students a chance to pilot/try other LMS before decision making so that we can actually use it and learn the pros and cons. |
| TRCC | Between 1/2-2/3 | -Other platforms were mentioned as replacements: Brightspace; Canvas. These were noted as being more user friendly. |
| NXCC | | IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING TO USE BLACKBOARD AS THE PREFERRED LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS) Whereas moving to a new Learning Management System would cause a major disruption for faculty and students in a majority of ways; • Moving existing content from one LMS to another would be time consuming, cost ineffective and chaotic; • Training on a new system would be time-intense, costly and massively disruptive; • Current students, familiar with one system, would have to become familiar with another system and they would necessarily have to do so on their own time and through their own efforts since we would be able to supply training documentation but no formal training; • We are understaffed in all areas and we can neither afford, nor do we have the manpower necessary, to do comprehensive training and appropriate follow-up. Nor do we have the staff to offer the support that would be needed to move to an alternative LMS; • Faculty do not have the time to attend the needed intense training because of staffing issues that have people doing multiple jobs; • We do not need the additional turmoil, over and above what already exists, that moving to a new LMS would bring with it; now, therefore, be it |
| CACC | Less than 1/3 | People at CCC don't seem interested in exploring alternatives to Bb |

4. Please let us know some of the thoughts discussed in the meeting about RECOMMENDATION 3 - ENHANCED TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS.

| Name | Agreement Level | Responses |
|------|-----------------|--|
| MXCC | More than 2/3 | There were no comments specific to training. |
| HCC | More than 2/3 | • Schedule training to fit adjunct schedules • Training for online teaching requires iTeach or similar • Make available training during 'on-contract' hours |
| CCSU | More than 2/3 | While BB has 24/7 support, the point was made that it is outsourced and not specific to our campus. CCSU seems to have one of the better local support staffs, even though it is run by only 2 people. |
| TXCC | Between 1/3-1/2 | - good plan - Training will need to occur this year if we change from BBL. - There is enough training for faculty offered. Having more offering will not mean everyone should go. One thought would be to have faculty members be required to have taught 75 credit hours on-ground before teaching on-line. Students should be required to take 15-30 credits before taking an on-line. This was not the majority, but a discussion. - Blackboard could make it easier to figure out how to do things. One instructor reported having to go to Adrienne too often to figure out how to do something simple. It should be assumed that students and faculty will have trouble figuring it out unless it's spelled out very clearly. - No recommendations given |
| COSC | More than 2/3 | The faculty would like to see more training and support for students and faculty. |
| SCSU | More than 2/3 | Not controversial. |
| ECSU | More than 2/3 | Training is available and effective at Eastern, but enhanced training can be positive. Training would be well appreciated by my department. Can this be included in FYI for students vs separate training? "Include staff in the conversation" Student Training is important...needs to be placed within a context that is actually engaged with on some level (rather than a video or PDF document). Many training can be done online, on demand now. |
| TRCC | More than 2/3 | -Generally, adequate training opportunities have been provided for faculty. -Mandatory training for all students, in some form, should be considered. |
| CACC | More than 2/3 | Yes, that is desired. |

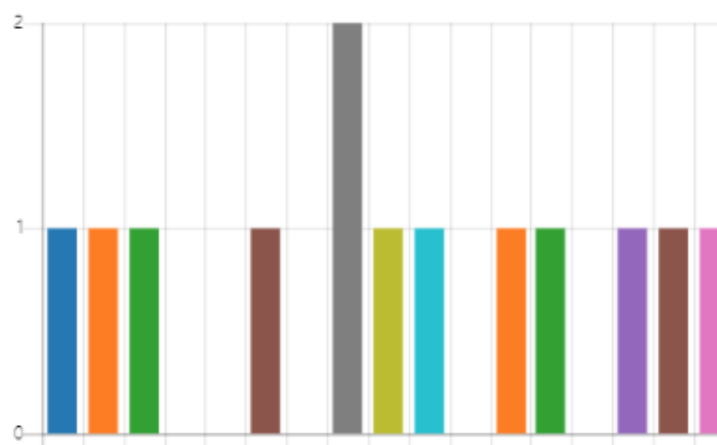
5. Please let us know some of the thoughts discussed in the meeting about RECOMMENDATION 4 - PROMOTION OF BASIC LMS BEST PRACTICES.

| Name | Agreement Level | Responses |
|------|-----------------|--|
| MXCC | More than 2/3 | There were no comments on best practices. |
| HCC | More than 2/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consistent look is the main goal of the course re-org trainings we are doing by department. Last semester was Business and FYS. This semester is BSS. So eventually there should be a consistent “look” so students can easily transition to other online classes • Should have local discussion and rationale provided for any changes. • Adjunct training needed • Training is available [at HCC] by Ryan Farrington for Blackboard |
| CCSU | More than 2/3 | We should also have training for ADA compliance. We should create some easy to use templates that faculty could use to make it easier to be consistent, with the understanding that no faculty are compelled to stick to the template and full customization is possible. If work is done on templates, we should also make sure this is a requirement for any LMS if a decision is made to change platforms. |
| TXCC | Between 1/3-1/2 | - helpful - This discussion of best practices was around specific topics. 1) The use of the gradebook 2) The conversion on documents, videos and pictures for lectures into content area, how best to manage and have them ADA compliant. - n/a - No recommendations given |
| MCC | More than 2/3 | There needs to be better training on standards (like Quality Matters or others). There needs to be standardization across all courses so students have a similar experience. |
| COSC | Neutral | The faculty would like more information about how this would be done. |
| SCSU | Less than 1/3 | There is substantial concern about who would (a) define and (b) enforce "LMS Best Practices." |
| ECSU | More than 2/3 | Training is needed for students..students don't know how to upload /download files...We should use classtime to train students on the basics This sounds like a giant waste of time as best practices here will change depending on style of the instructor. |
| TRCC | More than 2/3 | -Promoting more consistent courses is a helpful to students. -Some feel that all faculty should be required to use an LMS; many do not use it at all. |
| CACC | More than 2/3 | People are in favor of that. |

6. Please indicate your institution.

[More Details](#)

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Central Connecticut State Uni... | 1 |
| Eastern Connecticut State Uni... | 1 |
| Southern Connecticut State U... | 1 |
| Western Connecticut State Un... | 0 |
| Asnuntuck Community College | 0 |
| Capital Community College | 1 |
| Gateway Community College | 0 |
| Housatonic Community College | 2 |
| Manchester Community College | 1 |
| Middlesex Community College | 1 |
| Naugatuck Valley Community ... | 0 |
| Northwestern Community Coll... | 1 |
| Norwalk Community College | 1 |
| Quinebaug Community College | 0 |
| Three Rivers Community Colle... | 1 |
| Tunxis Community College | 1 |
| Charter Oak State College | 1 |



Name of person
completing this
form.

Title/role at your institution

Your Email.

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| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
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