

LMS MEETING
Monday, December 1, 2003
UP 301
2:00 PM-4:00 PM

ATTENDEES: Mike Howard, Carlene Peterson, Mark Ingles, Anita George, Mary Angeles, Kevin Patterson, Gary Abernethy, Alan Shapiro, Karen Estes, Valerie Polansky, Jim Rutledge, Li-Lee Tunceren and Carol Barber

Alan discussed the vendor visits from last week. He likes the features of both of the companies and likes the way a quiz package can be moved into Angel.

He was surprised with Angel's Action Editor stating that it was cumbersome, but its ability to do other things was "exceptional". It works well with non-credit classes.

He said that we need to make this transition at this time, in order to move forward and stay ahead of other colleges.

The cost of the transition has not been discussed at this time.

Alan says that a perpetual license with WebCT will be large the first year, as E-Campus has grown immensely. Also Oracle is very expensive, but we cannot use the PeopleSoft license. There will be an annual maintenance fee with WebCT as well.

Angel has an unlimited license, which increases annually, based on the FTE and the projected users. This would be more advantageous cost-wise.

Mike also attended the vendor visits. It was his first time to meet with Angel. He was much more impressed with the actual usage of the software as compared to the "Olympics". They are empathetic with our "mission".

Mark stated that the exporter in WebCT is not working well. The link in *wild* is causing problems. He suggested removing the links that are causing the problems. He will try to fix the "view" for grades in Javascript.

He also suggested that we test the migration with different courses using different features.

Mark also said that both softwares work well, but we will need more daily upkeep with WebCT. WebCT keeps everything in its database and it will be easier for him to work with. He also stated that both systems would work for us.

Valerie prefers Angel. Both will work for us, but there will still be a learning time involved.

Jim, also prefers Angel and states that WebCT is cumbersome, but the math respondus works well.

He also mentioned that WebCT has promised to look in the “view” button to update it. Students with slower computers do not log out properly after completing a session, due to the delay with their service.

It has all the functionality needed and the faculty is already familiar with it. The course conversion is complete for the transition, but it does have a problem with the character set change.

Jim asked if we can add on to the export tool to alleviate some of the problems. We need more information on respondus, e-packs, zip files, webdev, and scorm packages.

Carlene likes the adaptiveness of Angel. She says that the faculty function is more “user friendly”, but it takes two minutes to migrate a course and five minutes to fix a problem in the course.

She is concerned with the “learning curve” with WebCT. She wanted to know if all the costs for licensing are included or are there hidden costs.

She also agrees that there will be a learning curve.

Anita thinks that WebCT is a secure company with financial stability, but she is skeptical regarding the contract with them.

She prefers the “business like” people at Angel.

Kevin is still concerned with the migration process. Whatever recommendation we make we also need to include the list of items that are problematic.

He says that we should include those with the negotiations NOW instead of later.

Kevin also says that we will need extra help in getting everything to work properly. He mentioned perhaps the cost should be included in the faculty’s salary when submitting the recommendation .

Mary wrote several publishing companies regarding their transition experiences. All of the publishers have material for WebCT and Blackboard. Few of them have any Angel material.

Gary stated that the further away we get from the “comfort zone” the more difficult will be the training. He prefers Angel. He is also concerned with the quality of work compared to the cost of the software.

Li-Lee liked the virtual classroom training with Angel, but is not comfortable with how it works right now. She is a frequent user, but not an advanced one.

She is concerned with the responsiveness of the softwares and favors them both.

At the conclusion everyone offered to help Alan write up the recommendation for the college.