

LMS Evaluation Committee
Room UP 301, Seminole Campus
September, 3, 2003 2PM- 3:30PM

Present: Mark Billiris, Lynda Womer, Jim Rutledge, Alan Shapiro, Gary Abernethy, Mike Howard, Anita George, Valerie Polarsky, Karen Hesting, Karen Estes, Dave Creamer, Li-Lee Tuncerer, Bill, Barzen

Important dates were given to the committee members

- Angel Demo from Cyberlearning Labs will be here on September 24th at 8:30 – 10:30 AM. Room to be announced later.
- Web CT Vista meeting Oct. 1, 2003 at 1:30PM—3:30PM. This is the same date as our next committee meeting.
- “Shoot out” slated for Oct. 30th from 1 – 4 PM in the digitorium Details will be developed over the next couple of weeks. One of the tasks for each vendor will be to migrate a WebCT course and it put into their LMS with all links intact.

Alan introduced Anita George and Mike Howard from Corporate Training as new members to the LMS Evaluation Committee. The reason for bringing Corporate Training onto the committee stems from a couple of reasons. First, it was an oversight on the chair part not to invite Corporate Training. Second, their knowledge and use of eLogic will provide the committee with some valuable information about this particular vendor.

Dr Gary Howard, University of West Florida—Conference Call

- Dr. Howard explained process that U of W FL followed to choose their LMS
- Committee was made up mainly of faculty—two were Instructional Technologists. President made the appointments.
- Initial criteria were 11 pages long. Committee evaluated criteria to select most important items.
- Process began with 25 LMS's.
- Ran criteria to select top Five
- Top five gave committee guest acct.
- Committee raked top five.
- Technologist had task to try and break.
- All five of the top choice was eliminated. (1) U Campus (2) Blackboard (3) E College (4) Web CT (5) Angel
- Committee then looked at *Desire to Learn*. Dr. Howard comments: Migration Clean—User friendly—More Robust—Approved by faculty- Testing tool much better—Has Math Symbolism—Ease of handling data

A number of questions were asked by the committee to Dr. Howard. One was about the size D2L in terms of financial feasibility and its size (Small company) Dr. Howard commented how U of W FL had many conversations with the D2L people and felt “Product worth the risk..”

Other questions asked were about the customization of D2L. Dr. Howard commented how D2L worked with them to make changes in the software to fit UWF's needs. The question about upgrades was asked in terms of making sure the software continues to work if there is an upgrade. Dr. Howard said that D2L does have versions. UWF is being hosted by D2L because they needed to get their courses up and running quickly.

Another question was asked about sharing content with different roles within D2L. Dr. Howard stated that this can be done. He said you can also you can create templates that are shared.

Discussions followed on the following topics:

When thinking about the different features you want, stay open minded. Since the only system we know is WebCT, it is important to think outside the box about the features you want. A suggestion from one of the committee members is to survey the faculty that use WebCT to find out what tools they use the most at this time. This then can drive the evaluation process. If a tool is used by the most of the faculty and that tool is not finding in one of the LMS being evaluated, it will have a very low score.

Alan has sent notes he took talking to each vendor via email to committee members. The contact person's name is on that document for the sub-committees.

Some other concerns were expressed by the committee members in terms what should be included on evaluation rubric. An important thing to look at is the companies' product development for roadmap. It was expressed by this committee member that a company should have a good product development plan.

The next meeting is September 17 from 2-3:30 PM in UP 301 Seminole.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.