Planned Updates to the myWPI System

• Learning Management System Task Force
  • Created in September 2015
  • 18 faculty, 5 staff, 4 students

• Task Force Charge:
  • Review options
  • Find best solution for on-campus, blended, and distance courses
  • Find solutions for departments not currently using myWPI
Task Force Members

Faculty:
Blake Currier (PH)  Pradeep Radhakrishnan (ME)  John Sullivan (ME)
Joseph Fehribach (MA)  Zoe Reidinger (BME)  Kevin Sweeney (FSB)
Destin Heilman* (CBC)  Khalid Saeed (SSPS)  Vance Wilson* (FSB)
Mike Johnson (MA)  Craig Shue (CS)
VJ Manzo (HUA)  Gbetonmasse Somasse (SSPS)

Staff:
Kristin Marengo (online student support)  Paul Riley (Academic Advising),
Paige Neumann (Library)  Laura Rosen (Disability Services)
Stephanie Papia (online student support)

Students:
Chris Chagnon (grad)  Brian King (ugrad)
Frank Egan (SGA rep)  Christine Tang (GSG rep)

*participated on the AY11 LMS evaluation task force
Motivation for the Exploration

- We have to migrate due to vendor support
  - Blackboard is discontinuing support for current version
  - Our contract with them expires June 2017
- We search periodically and it has been a while
  - Last evaluation was four years ago
- New opportunities in the LMS landscape including:
  - Better support for tablets, mobile devices
  - Improved user interface
  - Better collaboration and engagement tools
Faculty Priorities for LMS Features

- October 2015 Faculty Survey (67 responses)
  - Grade book
  - Tests and quizzes
  - Assignments
  - Discussion boards
  - Announcements
  - Video upload and playback management
Evaluation Process

- Requested information from LMS providers in B term
- Used survey results to form selection criteria
- Four products met the requirements and were further studied
- In C term, LMS task force demonstrations and trialed:
  - Blackboard’s new version
  - D2L Brightspace
  - Canvas
  - Schoology
Important Evaluation Outcomes

- Regardless of choice, disruption is unavoidable
  - Interface changes (look and feel)
  - Conversion of materials
  - Even Blackboard 9.1 requires conversion to newest Blackboard
- Significant opportunities in change
  - Most task force members are excited by the new LMS choice
- New system rated highly intuitiveness and easy to use
Recommendation:

- Simple, modern, intuitive interface
- Batch operations: post/delete multiple files
- Developer support for technology innovation at WPI
- Site designed to be mobile device friendly (no app required)
- Excellent integrations with third party tools (e.g. iCal, Google Calendar)
- Vendor support 24/7 for instructors and students
Plan for 2016-2017 academic year

• Run both Canvas and Blackboard simultaneously
  • Single log-in page will redirect WPI users to both systems
  • Information will be posted so that students know where to find courses

• Fall 2016 goal: 50% of A/B/Fall courses use Canvas
  • Faculty can request ATC to migrate/package existing Blackboard content over the summer

• Spring 2017 goal: 50-75% of C/D/Spring courses use Canvas
• August 2017: All myWPI courses will be in Canvas
• myWPI use is completely optional for instructors
Next steps

• Hands-on technical previews throughout D-term
• Former ATC’er Erin DeSilva (now at Dartmouth) to present on pedagogical opportunities with Canvas on Monday, April 4th
  • This session will be recorded!
• Canvas website announcing updates, sessions, migration processes, etc. available at http://wpi.edu/+canvas