

# 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)

Joseph Fehribach (MA)

Destin Heilman\* (CBC)

Mike Johnson (MA)

VJ Manzo (HUA)

Pradeep Radhakrishnan (ME)

Zoe Reidinger (BME)

Khalid Saeed (SSPS)

Craig Shue (CS)

Gbetonmasse Somasse (SSPS)

John Sullivan (ME)

Kevin Sweeney (FSB)

Vance Wilson\* (FSB)

## Staff:

Kristin Marengo (online student support)

Paige Neumann (Library)

Stephanie Papia (online student support)

Paul Riley (Academic Advising),

Laura Rosen (Disability Services)

## Students:

Chris Chagnon (grad)

Frank Egan (SGA rep)

Brian King (ugrad)

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:



canvas  
BY INSTRUCTURE

- 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>