

## Faculty Senate Notes

August 10, 2020

1. Introduction Slide
2. Technical Updates Slide

### **ISSUE WITH TERM DATES WEEK OF AUGUST 3:**

The issue the week of August 3 was a result of end-of-term dates being out of sync between the SIS and Canvas. Modifications to the data feed coming from Banner are underway so that this will not be an issue moving forward. Section dates, course dates and term dates will all be in sync.

### **BLACKBOARD SUNSETTING MESSAGE SENT ON AUG 6 AND UPDATE AUG 7:**

As we prepare to sunset eCampus at Texas A&M University, we will need to incrementally remove content in the LMS prior to 2018. We sent an email to a little over 13.5k recipients on Thursday who had content in eCampus from 2018 and prior that had not been used. The email required an update, as an important piece of information was mistakenly left off. The update that was issued Friday (8/7/20) clarified that this applies to **practice, development, orphaned, and duplicate courses that have not been accessed by instructors or staff members prior to 2018**. The email provided steps on how to export content from Blackboard. Action is required by August 21 at 11:59 pm. We will send this email reminder out again prior to August 21.

Additional information will be sent in Winter 2020 on the long-term archive of Blackboard courses as we near the end date of eCampus on August 15, 2021.

### **GRADES UPDATE:**

Ramesh Kannappan and his team at EIS are taking the lead on creating a grade sync solution between Canvas and Banner. They will be looking at doing dynamic pulls into Banner via Canvas API. Grade error checking functionality will be provided via Howdy.

### **TECHNICAL UPDATES:**

#### **Canvas**

- The technical team is working with EIS to enhance current feeds from Banner into Canvas. This includes enhancements:
  - Regarding term dates
  - Security/Admin roles
- The technical team is preparing for fall classes by:
  - Setting enrollments
  - Setting up combined sections per the Opt-In application
- The technical team is working with EIS to provide a more mature grade submission process into Banner, which I just described.
- And the technical team along with AI teams are working on finishing integration and testing for the following LTIs for Fall:

- Ally
- Scorm
- Portfolium
- Office 365
- LinkedIn Learning
- Barnes and Noble
- Mediasite
- Microsoft Teams

### ***Supporting Applications***

- The Opt-in application live is live for Fall. Using this will:
  - Let AI team know how many faculty will plan on teaching from Canvas in for fall
  - Let LMS team know how to set up courses for fall.
  - We have some additional documentation that will be available in the next day or so that addresses some of the issues faculty have had with this.
- ORCA
  - The web portal is in development
    - User management had been implemented
    - User roles defined
    - Impersonate user for supporting purposes implemented.
  - Working on course feature sets
    - Adding new courses
    - Setting up sections in courses
  - Working on the non-interactive app that will:
    - integrate digital desk with Canvas
    - process course requests submitted in ORCA to create in Canvas
    - add/edit account requests submitted to Compass to Canvas
    - perform any nightly syncs between ORCA and Canvas that were missed during the day.
  - Working on getting daytime updates from Compass to complement the overall nightly updates.

### ***MIGRATION UPDATES:***

- 7 Courses, as a part of our fall pilot of complex course migration, will be finalized this week and ready for instruction this Fall term.
  - VTPP 425 / 625 (Faculty: James Herman)
  - STAT 656 & 636 (Faculty: Darren Homrighausen)
  - PSYC 107 (Faculty: Rachel Hull)
  - ARCH 350 (Faculty: Gabriela Campagnol)
  - ANSC 107 (Faculty: Kathrin Dunlap)
- Academic Innovation will be putting together resources from the Fall pilot migration of complex courses. These resources will be shared with Instructional Designers across the University for Canvas implementation of complex courses moving forward.
- Spring 2021 Complex Course Migration will begin this week in partnership with Instructure.
  - There are a total of 216 complex courses identified.

- When the migration is complete, we will communicate out to the leaders of each college.

### 3. Canvas Implementation by the Numbers

#### a. **CANVAS ADOPTION DATA**

You can see the numbers are increasing over each of the past few weeks as we receive more entries from the Opt In App.

#### b. **CANVAS TRAINING**

- We have trained a total of 548 total participants over 50+ training sessions since June 8<sup>th</sup>
- 174 unique individuals trained since June 8<sup>th</sup>
- Individuals are attending on average 5 training sessions
- Tuesday morning at 10am seems to be the most attended training time regardless of the training topic
- Our most popular training topics include:
  - Canvas Orientation
  - Create a Course in Canvas
  - Create Assessments in Canvas
  - Set Up Your Gradebook in Canvas
- We had 380 participants in our 3-hour Canvas training last week and still have space available for this Friday.

#### c. **WEEKLY SERVICE DESK DATA (July 29 – August 5)**

You can see our weekly Service Data. As FYI, these numbers are about two times what they have been all summer; and that number has been two times the year-to-date numbers. **Given our volume of tickets currently in the Service Desk, and decline in training numbers over the past two weeks, we will discontinue synchronous virtual trainings for the next two weeks to ensure we are getting responses to Service Desk tickets and can commit more staff resources to virtual office hours. This will also ensure our next round of trainings will be responsive to the needs coming in through the Service Desk.** We will have a re-vamped synchronous plan in late August after the semester gets underway. Don't forget about all of the on-demand training resources we have available on [lms.tamu.edu](https://lms.tamu.edu).

#### ***Weekly Contact Types:***

Phone: 120

Email: 328

Other: 13

**Total: 465**

#### ***Weekly LMS Numbers:***

eCampus: 138

eCampus Tools: 91

Canvas: 202

Miscellaneous and other: 34

**Total: 465**

**Canvas Categories by the Numbers:**

LMS Transition: 2  
Enrollments: 55  
Opt In Application: 30  
3rd Party Applications: 13  
Training:37  
Content: 16  
Other: 49  
**Total: 202**

**4. Information Items – Action Required**

- The Canvas Sanbox will be going way on **September 30, 2020**
- Items (already mentioned – *practice, development, orphaned, and duplicate courses that have not been accessed by instructors or staff members prior to 2018.*) in Blackboard **prior to start of Spring 2018 semester** need to be backed up
- Use of Google Classroom will be discontinued at the **end of the Fall 2020 semester**
- ZOOM will require a password and/or the Waiting Room feature enabled on all meetings beginning **September 27, 2020**

**5. Big Splash Update**

- Thanks to all who participated in the Big Splash. Recordings to each of the sessions are being processed now and we will start to get those up as we have them over the next few days. While the speakers did link their remarks to Canvas in most cases, the content was generally applicable to the various delivery modalities for Fall. We would encourage you to drive faculty to these resources if they need additional ideas, particularly for those who will be teaching with face-to-face and remote student audiences.
- We still have room for faculty to join the 3-hour Canvas training led by a learning specialist from Canvas on Friday. There are two sessions, one beginning at 9:00 am and one beginning at 1:00 pm. Registration is required, and you can find that information on the Big Splash page of [lms.tamu.edu](https://lms.tamu.edu).
- Our Customer Success Manager from Zoo will also join us at the noon hour on Friday to go through our data and will provide some insights on Zoom’s roadmap for higher ed moving forward.

**6. Up Next**

- Website Updates
  - We continue to make updates to Keep Teaching and Keep Learning as the centralized resource for materials curated for the Fall. Keep Learning will also be updated in the next few days to reflect the Fall semester.
- Social Media Channels
  - As always, we continue to send out useful tips and updates to our training materials through our social media channels.