

TECHNICAL UPDATE

- Canvas Environment
 - Initial test data feeds have been successfully imported into Canvas
 - Data validation process is complete – the production environment is well on its way to being accessible by Summer 2 faculty.
 - User roles and permissions as well as course roles and permissions are being finalized. User roles and permissions have been expanded to include Academic Liaisons and Teaching Assistants. What’s important for us all to understand is that the way in which individuals will be enrolled into Canvas will be different and have greater compliance than eCampus tools. This piece of the technical implementation falls at the intersection of PITO, AI, EIS, and the Registrar and we are actively in conversation as this piece evolves.
- 3rd Party Tools
 - As we customize our instance of Canvas, we are working to have the following tools integrated for Summer 2 (Zoom, Google Apps, Turnitin, Respondus Lockdown Browser, Wiris Mathtype/Chemtype).
 - We have another round of 3rd party tools on deck for integration ahead of Fall. As we integrate more tools we will be sure to communicate on the LMS website.
 - A process for requesting 3rd party tools will be a subsequent step in the implementation.
- A few other notable technical steps
 - Initiated review of the Gradebook export process prior to customization to extract grades from Canvas. Right now it will be a manual entry to into Howdy; 2nd summer session gives us an opportunity to test functionality and communicate accordingly with faculty who opt into Canvas in the Fall.
 - Plan under development for identifying complex courses for export from BB and import to Canvas
 - We have a app that is live on the LMS website as an intake process for course instructors. That went live for Summer 2 faculty last week.
 - A more robust middleware application is under development to replace eCampus tools. While we don’t have this in place, there were be several business processes that faculty will need to pay attention to.

CANVAS IS LIVE

- **30,313** Total Summer User Accounts Created
- **1,238** Development Courses Created and Instructors enrolled.
- **1,238** Instructors enrolled as students in the AI Training courses.
- **2,553** Total Summer 2 Courses to be loaded today.
- **25** Academic Liaisons user accounts created and sub account permissions applied.

TIMELINE FOR SUMMER 2

- Summer 2 faculty are enrolled as a student in a self-paced course called “Growing with Canvas.”
- We also have several on-demand opportunities, live trainings sessions, and virtual office hours available to support Summer 2 faculty.

- Given where we are with the technical implementation, Summer 2 faculty will not have their course shell to build out their content until June 16 (so one week later). While not ideal, we have plenty of resources available for faculty to get a jump start ahead of June 30th Go-Live date.

HOW IT WORKS

In terms of steps in the process, Summer 2 faculty have followed this four-step process:

- (1) The Opt-In app allowed faculty to let us know they intended to use Canvas for Summer 2. This is also a stand-in until we get the middleware built out. This is also how we will identify which course sections needed to be combined.
- (2) Next, all Summer 2 faculty were loaded into our Growing with Canvas Course.
- (3) This self-paced course encourages faculty to play in the environment and build as they go, so we also provisioned a course that could be used for this purpose.
- (4) And then today courses went live where faculty can build out their content for Summer 2.

This process may be slightly altered for the Fall, but we wanted to give you a sense of the steps in the process, particularly the Opt-In app, which we will likely use again for the Fall.

ACADEMIC LIAISONS

- Each Dean has identified one to two Academic Liaisons for each School/College and the branch campuses. We will engage this group alongside Summer 2 course instructors. These individuals will be an important conduit to AI and Provost IT throughout the LMS implementation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- We have released our new version of LMS.tamu.edu, which is about a year in the making and through consultation with dozens of other institutions who leveraged this type of resource in their Canvas implementation.
- We are working on three resources that will help guide faculty
 - (1) What you can do now (what this slide illustrates)
 - (2) Decision process to help guide you from Blackboard to Canvas
 - (3) Canvas Out of the Box
- ***We do not yet have a definitive date by which Fall course shells will be available to faculty – most likely no earlier than mid July.*** Any requests ahead of that time for Fall cannot be accommodated.
- A note on supporting faculty who choose to use the free version of Canvas: We neither recommend nor will be able to support the import into the TAMU instance. We are customizing our Canvas environment and our focus is on understanding the nuances of BB into Canvas and our custom Canvas environment. We know this is circulating out there and hope you will help spread the message that this is not advised.

WHAT AGGIES ARE SAYING

Communication is important and we are designing our strategy with our audiences in mind. We are working hard to ensure our communication is not just one-way. One group we have been able to engage in our communication strategy are our very talented group of student workers, who carefully-planned our recent social media contest. This gave us the opportunity gather positive, open-ended feedback straight from students about TAMU faculty efforts during the Spring 2020 term. These vignettes along

with the data from the Hanover survey that Dr. Alicia Dorsey has provided us with give us feedback to continuously improve our efforts. Our intention with the student-centric content was to gather stories that we can recycle through our own communications, and also curate content that faculty would be curious about.

An unanticipated benefit of this contest that we want to highlight was seeing just how curious our faculty would be to know “what students were saying” about the transition to online delivery in the Spring 2020 term. Industry standard email open rates flounder at around 20%. From the email we sent a week ago last Friday, we received a high open rate of 50% and considering the link was at the bottom of the email, we would like to infer that people in fact read the entirety of the message.

(The link click rate for the “what students are saying” link is reflected in the pink bar on the left.)

CONTEST WINNER

We received over four dozen entries from students and would like to congratulate Dr. Herman for all that he did to ensure his students had a positive end to the Spring semester. You can read more stories submitted by students on lms.tamu.edu.

NEXT UP

- We continue to work on messaging to the university community to provide updates as we have them. We do not yet have all of the answers, but we do have a sequence laid out leading up to the Fall.
- We are working with Canvas to get a few custom templates developed to be reflective of the ways faculty will be assigned to teach in the Fall (fully online vs the blendflex model). These will be organized by best practices for the different modes of delivery. Faculty don’t have to use these, but this is something several universities I’ve talked to are doing.
- With the launch of the new LMS website, we have also moved Keep Teaching and Keep Learning here so these resources are all aggregated for faculty. Some cool features include:
 - Countdown Ticker until eCampus exit
 - Book an appointment (when this goes live, this will help us accommodate more faculty in the near future, particularly given physical distancing)
 - Links to all of our social media channels that are full of helpful resources
 - And updates to university guidance on several key issues under discussion among various committees.