

LMS Review Subcommittee Votes & Rationale

College of Health Professions

Brad McCormick and Rhonda Bishop

Votes

1. Canvas
2. Canvas

Rationale for Canvas

- I like the homepage with course tiles. I think it is easy to find your course.
- Excellent online help
- The grading: using “speed grader” or rubrics. Very efficient
- Gradebook is nice.
- Seems like the integration with Office365 is great.
- I liked the layout of the Gradebook
- I liked the calendar features and the ease of changing dates
- The site seemed easy to navigate and use
- File management looks good
- It seems like building a course will be easy
- Easy to add folders and pages
- Feedback to students looks ok.
- I was impressed with the portfolio feature that is actually housed outside of Canvas

College of Arts and Sciences

Tina Arduini, Melissa Smith, Heather Pavletic, Felix Smith, Diane Jackson and Cliff Franklund

Votes

1. Brightspace
2. Brightspace

Rationale for Brightspace

- The portfolio component of D2L is easy to use, accessible, and allows for alumni access for life. This component will be especially useful for many programs.
- The site itself seemed easier to navigate than the other two systems, and the widget components were user friendly. Our experiences in testing the systems in the sandboxes revealed that Canvas was occasionally hard to manage, and some elements were difficult to find.
- D2L has a system in place to transfer assessment and outcome data directly into our assessment management system, which should allow for easier assessment practices and help us integrate assessment more fully into our practices.
- Finally, we appreciated D2L's customer support and service and thought they stood out against the other systems.

College of Business

Aaron Madziar, Dave Marion, Nicolas Mata, Jim Furstenberg, Barbara Barney-McNamara and Mary Holmes

Votes

1. Learn Ultra
2. Canvas

Rationale for Learn Ultra

- Cost seems to make this a responsible choice (no pilot fee/duplicate license)*
**assuming all included functions are equal*
- Includes some additional packages (such as a plagiarism product)
- Blackboard has connections to many tools that faculty already use
- Smoother transition (same platform with new UI)
- UI seems most friendly on small screens
- A more familiar tool could help student retention.
- Faculty have more options on how to structure and present their classes.
- Streamlined workflow for key tasks (fewer clicks when grading large classes/assignments)

Rationale for Canvas

- Strong UI; Improvement over current LMS (Blackboard Learn)
- Faculty have commented on the ease of use in setting up a class
- Open Source – this can be a benefit for those who want to alter their shell
- Simple interface to show students where they stand on assignments
- Assessments can be readily captured
- Canvas offers connections to a broader range of tools
- Ability to use Google Apps
- New LTI coming to check assignments
- <https://mfeldstein.com/na-he-lms-market-share-enrollments-for-2012-2018/>

The above link provides the market share help by the top LMS programs and as of recent, Canvas has surpassed Blackboard.

College of Education and Human Services

Jake Pollak, Vanessa Wyss and Tim Eklin

Votes

1. Canvas
2. Canvas

Rationale for Canvas

- Mobile accessibility
- Date changing features
- Global market share data
- End user support feedback
- Support from FSU course develop staff
- Listing to testimony from other users
- Dissatisfaction with Bb

Kendall College of Art and Design

Anne Norcross, Nancy Hart and Rhonda Kessler

Votes

1. Canvas
2. Canvas

Our vote comes with the stipulation that we also purchase the plagiarism detection tool that accompanies it. This is an essential feature that we require in an LMS.

Rationale for Canvas

- We found Canvas to be intuitive with consistent navigation throughout.
- The integration and synchronization of the syllabus and assignments throughout the course platform is another feature that make for a better user experience.
- Moreover, accessibility is built into the interface and they provide 24/7 services; this makes for a better learner experience.
- The adaptive design is an important feature along with the ePortfolio that may be quite useful for studio assessments.

College of Pharmacy

Jennifer Lamberts and David Bright

Votes

1. Canvas
2. Canvas

Rationale for Canvas

- A majority of COP survey respondents preferred Canvas over the other two LMS's.
- The Canvas platform is the most refined and user friendly. Real-time updates and excellent support are pluses.
- Canvas would support both classroom, mixed, and fully online delivery with the best accessibility.
- Ease of integration with ExamSoft is extremely important.
- Availability of web conferencing (Blue Jeans) and lecture capture (Panopto) solutions.
- Ability to integrate directly with Nuventive Improve platform/software is important for assessment.

Michigan College of Optometry

Brian McDowell and Sara Bush

Votes

1. Learn Ultra
2. Learn Ultra

Rationale for Learn Ultra

- We know that Blackboard is compatible with what we currently make use of in the LMS and therefore we should not lose any current preferred practices.
- We are in a technology rich environment that requires significant IT support and find, unfortunately, that that support is not always readily available, therefore, the least amount of change in daily practices would be ideal. This is especially true for the “casual” users that are abundant within the college. Power users/early adopters from our program, and any program really, will find a way to make this work it is the others that I worry about.
- We did not see a significant enough improvement with the alternative LMS platforms to rationalize the significant amount of training that will be required, by our college alone, by changing platforms.
- As a college we are deeply invested in the use of Tegrity and with the announcement that it will be phased out in just over 6 months, our concerns are justifiably shifted to that issue. Trying to adopt a whole new LMS and lecture capture system at the same time sounds like a recipe for disaster.
- As a college we are also fiscally strapped at this time with more cuts on the horizon. We have not heard much in the way of cost differences between the LMS platforms, but the cost of man hours alone in making a change of this nature will require sacrifices somewhere and we have not been given a clear picture of where those sacrifices will be made. I fear it will be at a cost to the students.

College of Engineering Technology

Luke Hedman, Brian Brady, Warren Klope and Joe Pacella

Votes

1. Learn Ultra
2. Canvas

Rationale for Learn Ultra

- Poll results of CET faculty slightly favored Blackboard over Canvas.
- Grade book calculations had been significantly improved.

Rationale for Canvas

- Cross listed sections can have separate open, close, and due dates for assignments, quizzes, and content.
- More question types than Blackboard Ultra.
- Lots of quality non-vendor and vendor support material available online including open educational resources.
- Design flexibility to use modules and or pages to organize/deliver content.
- Integration with Office 365 and Google apps is built in.
- Notifications has lots of levels of control.
- The mobile app really works.

FLITE Library

Alison Konieczny and Fran Rosen

Votes

1. Canvas
2. Canvas

Rationale for Canvas

- Canvas is easy-to-use and functions well on a variety of devices.
- Canvas is based on modern design principles.
- Canvas has strong support for universal design principles and accessibility.
- Canvas provides support directly to students who might need it.
- Canvas has useful and appealing features including global navigation, a good selection of notification preferences, an easy-to-update course calendar, and the option to create an ePortfolio that is not tied to a specific course.

Retention & Student Success

Dave McCall and Marie Yowitz

Votes

1. Canvas
2. Canvas

Rationale for Canvas

It is our belief that Canvas is the best LMS option for Ferris. Holistically, Canvas appears to offer the most well-rounded interface for design, usability, and accessibility. In addition, the market share analysis of LMS's across the country indicates that Canvas is taking over the marketplace. Ferris needs to continually analyze and adopt what is best for our students, even when this means it will create uncomfortableness for our faculty and staff (i.e., learning something new). We believe that Canvas will allow us to stay on trend with online learning and provide the best option for ensuring that students, faculty, and staff are utilizing the best learning management system available.

Benefits of Selecting Canvas:

- Easy Usability and Intuitiveness for Instructors and Students
- Improved Mobile Accessibility
- Standardized Layout for Students
- Offers the Best Customer Support (based on interviews and personal research)
- Dynamic Changes Within a Course (changes in syllabus automatically update on calendar)
- Enhanced Grading and Gradebook Options
- Improved Accessibility for Students with Disabilities