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From: Provost <Provost@NAU.EDU>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:44 PM
To: STAFF-L@LISTS.NAU.EDU
Subject: LMS refresh efforts underway



August 16, 2021

Dear colleagues,

Over the next few months, we'll be engaging in efforts to review our Learning Management System (LMS) needs and select a system that will provide us with the best foundation to support student success starting in the fall 2023 term.

Why do we need to do this?

Our contract with our current LMS Blackboard Learn (BbLearn) expires in summer 2023. With BbLearn's transition to Ultra demanding comparable effort to adopting a different LMS, it is the right time to review our LMS needs and how to best support student success. We are able to openly consider any LMS used at an Arizona university and select from among BbLearn, Canvas, and D2L.

How will we make this choice?

Knowing that the choice of an LMS underpins a great deal of what we do across the entire institution, we will ensure that the entire community of students, faculty, and staff will be engaged in developing our selection criteria, reviewing and assessing candidate systems according to these criteria, and shaping the final decision. We aim to complete the selection process and initiate implementation efforts in spring 2022.

While there are many criteria to consider, the functional requirements that support student learning and the non-functional attributes that shape the student and faculty experience will take center stage—we are confident in our technical ability to implement any of the three candidate systems that best supports these functional and non-functional needs.

Reflecting the centrality of our LMS in the student and faculty experience, this effort will be housed in academic affairs and coordinated through the Office of the Provost in concert with a diverse leadership and coordinating group consisting of Maylee Acosta, Associated Students of Northern Arizona University; Kara Attrep, Faculty Senate and Honors College; Don Carter, Academic Technology Advisory and Coordinating Council; John Georgas, Vice Provost for Academic Operations (chair); Gayla Stoner, Vice Provost and Dean

for Online and Innovative Educational Initiatives; Rebecca Seeger, Graduate Student Government; and Dan Stoffel, Information Technology Services.

What comes next?

In the next few weeks, we will be able to share more details on our planning to meet our goal of engaging the entire campus community in this effort. Our first major milestone will be to develop and refine selection criteria through a broadly collaborative process.

In closing, and on behalf of the entire leadership group, we're excited to engage with you all in the work ahead!

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