LMS implementation updates, September 2022

Dear colleagues,

With the semester now underway, we hope you're finding additional opportunities to engage with the resources that support our work toward adopting Instructure's Canvas as our next Learning Management System (LMS).

Feature highlight: Canvas Chat
Canvas's Chat tool provides faculty and students with a quick way to connect live in their courses. Faculty may elect to use this tool to allow students to connect with them when they're online, create and host virtual office hours, or conduct group discussions and mentored study sessions—all with the ability for students who were not able to attend the live session to review the chat history and catch up on anything they missed. These are all important strategies by which to support student success by promoting engagement, collaboration, and community-building, particularly in online classes. More details on this tool can be found on *Chat Overview* and the Instructure Community topic *What is Chat?*

Continued Canvas Conversations
The Teaching and Learning Center and our Instructional Design and Support teams are continuing to host Canvas Conversation sessions on many different topics, ranging from how to use Canvas capabilities in foundational aspects of course design to strategies for integrating best practices on student engagement. These sessions are a key resource for gaining familiarity with Canvas and reflecting on how Canvas's capabilities can inform course shell design.

Consultative decision-making
As we have done throughout the LMS selection and implementation process, we are closely engaging with the LMS Advisory Council on key questions around Canvas's configuration and how to integrate the platform into our existing instructional practices and associated business processes. Recent topics include the structure and hierarchy of academic accounts, the timing of student access to course shells (e.g., how long after a course's completion can students access course materials and how access is handled for Incomplete grades), and automated migration planning.

As always, the best way to stay informed on the LMS transition is through our information portal, and we continue to be grateful for your engagement!

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