CSU Planning and Evaluation Taskforce for Learning Platforms and Services
Academic Technology Services
CSU Office of Chancellor

Background

In 2007, the CSU developed an RFP process which led to many Master Enabling Agreements for several proprietary Learning Management Systems and Moodle hosting services. The Blackboard contract has clearly been a success for the California State University (CSU) system on many levels. The four-year contract (2012-2016) has provided a framework for synergy and collaboration across the 11 participating Blackboard Learn campuses, as well as significant cost savings based on economies of scale. Moodle campuses have also been successful in creating an active professional learning community of academic technologists, as evidenced by their sustained Common Interest Group monthly meetings. Aside from the 11 Blackboard campuses, there are 10 campuses that use Moodle as their Learning Management System (LMS), along with one that uses Canvas and one BrightSpace (D2L).

Expiration of the Blackboard contract in June of 2016 has driven significant discussions recently among CSU IT professionals focused on the need to begin a Learning Management System and Services (LMSS) review for the campuses. Understanding that an LMS change at any campus, where a significant number of LMS courses are offered, would be a fairly traumatic experience for faculty and IT staff alike, we propose mediation through long-term planning, using an underlying process that is transparent, open, and includes broad consultation with all campus stakeholders.

This project will implement a process that engages provosts, faculty, students, CIOs, Directors of Academic Technology, faculty development directors, academic technology support staff and others across the 23 campuses in order to facilitate a framework wherein a strategic review of LMS needs across the CSU can be undertaken. The project will be led by the CSU Planning and Evaluation Taskforce for Learning Platforms and Services (LPS Taskforce) and is charged by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The LPS Taskforce is charged with reviewing both current and future state of the LMS and the growing learning platforms and services marketplace as it pertains to the strategic needs of the CSU. CSU academic technology leaders recognize the strategic importance of the LMS as an enterprise system that supports both face-to-face and online education, leverages technology in order to transform the curriculum, and meets the needs of the 21st Century students. The review would produce a strategic framework for learning platforms and services based on the system's core values and mission, and in doing so, would consider the current and future LPS options. This review would provide the preliminary basis for the next generation "master enabling agreements" for system-wide contracts based on campus input.

Such a strategic project would show foresight of CSU campus leaders while demonstrating the Chancellor's Office's strong interest in fostering partnerships that serve our students with technology that is effective, accessible, mobile and collaborative. Moreover, it would support prudent financial stewardship of our system and its campuses. To capitalize on the valuable resources and expertise already in the CSU, we expect that a group of campuses may select a particular LMS and hence will continue to collaborate together in training, course migration and implementation of their new system.

Charge of the System-wide Planning and Evaluation Taskforce for Learning Platforms and Services (LPS Taskforce)

The purpose of the LPS Taskforce is to:

1. Review the state of learning management systems and services, inside and outside the CSU, using the recent ATSC report on LMS usage in the CSU, and develop a strategic framework for the CSU to best address its future LMS needs and achieve our desired student learning outcomes.
2. Develop and execute an RFP for a Master Enabling Agreement for LPS options.
3. Develop and execute a plan for managing the current contracts in ways that will enable the successful transitions to new contracts, including the facilitation of the extension of current system-wide contracts to facilitate campus transitions.

In fulfilling this charge, the LPS Taskforce will consult with a number of groups, including Academic Technology Steering Committee, the Directors of Academic Technology (DAT), the Faculty Development Center directors, the Chief Information Officers, the Academic Technology Advisory Committee, and others as needed.

Composition of the Learning Platforms and Services Taskforce

The LPS Taskforce will be co-chaired by Michael Berman, CIO at CSU, Channel Islands, and Ellen Junn, Provost at CSU Dominguez Hills. The co-chairs bring their experiences of using their learning management systems extensively on their respective campuses as well as established relationships with their respective colleagues.

The proposed committee members and their respective affiliations are as follows:

Provosts: 3 members:

- Ellen Junn, CSU, Dominguez Hills, Co-Chair
- James Strong, CSU Stanislaus
- Graham Oberem, CSU San Marcos

CIOs: 3 members

- Michael Berman, CIO, CSU Channel Islands, Co-Chair
- Anna Kircher, CIO, Humboldt State
- Borre Ulrichsen, CIO, CSU East Bay

Directors of Academic Technology: 2 members

- Deone Zell, Senior Director of Academic Technology, CSU Northridge
- James Frazee, Senior Academic Technology Director, San Diego State University

ASCSU: 2 faculty members (appointed by ASCSU)

- Otto Benavides, CSU Fresno
- Jerald Schutte, CSU Northridge

CSSA: 1 student member (appointed by CSSA)

- Mark Anthony Sohl, Resident Advisor, CSU Sacramento

Chancellor's Office Staff (non voting):

- Kathy Fernandes, Director of System-wide Learning Design and Technologies, Academic Technology Services, CSU Office of the Chancellor
- JP Bayard, Director of System-wide Learning Technologies and Program Services, Academic Technology Services, CSU Office of the Chancellor
- Leslie Kennedy, Director of Affordable Learning Solutions, Academic Technology Services, CSU Office of the Chancellor
- Gerry Hanley, AVC, Academic Technology Services.
- Darryl Dearborn, Contract Manager

Taskforce members are selected based on their knowledge, experience and interest in LPS, teaching and learning applications and support, as well as their ability to represent system-wide needs in this area. This slate of members is designed to represent various facets of LMS use in teaching and learning within the CSU, including the two current most commonly used LMS, small and large campuses, infrastructure and academic services and some geographical diversity.

Tentative Timeline

This timeline below should be considered tentative, as the LPS Taskforce is charged with informing the CSU about its future learning platform and services needs and developing a framework for meeting those needs.

Date	Action
Spring 2015	Formalize the composition of the LPS Taskforce
	Discussions with CSU stakeholders on the LPS future
	Develop the framework for an LPS RFP
Summer 2015	Finalize an LPS RFP
Fall 2015	Publish the LPS RFP
Spring 2016	Evaluation LPS RFP Submissions
	Publish LPS options for the CSU