

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
Learning Management System Advisory Group

Agenda for the fifth meeting in 2010 of the Learning Management System Advisory Group to be held on **Thursday July 15** from **2.00 – 3.00 pm** via Elluminate.

Confirmed Minutes

Attendance: Lilian Austin; Aly Waterson; Andrew Noble; Ben Ong Cindy Taylor; Danielle Sandrazie; Donna Bisset; Eddie Naidu; Fiona Salisbury; Matt Oates; Paul Whittingham; Ric Canale; Rob Bassett; Russell Smith, Tracy Robertson.

Observing: Robyn Hodge (Secretariat)

A PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1 Welcome from Chair and apologies received

Welcome from Lilian.

Apologies received from: Shannon Kerrigan, Marcus de Rijk, Paul Whittingham, Steve Jones, Jennifer Masters, Matt Riddle, Jennifer Hamilton-McKenzie

A2 Confirmation of the previous minutes

The Advisory Group is invited to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on May 20.

Moved: Eddie

Seconded: Donna

B G ENERAL BUSINESS

B1 Report on SIS/LMS changes

- Interface b/w SIS and LMS Admin database deactivated on May 8. The updater still ran and enrolment data was applied to new units but not copying in enrolment variations b/w May 8 and now. Many new students didn't have access to Semester 2 and Early teaching units. the appropriate developers. Anders and Russell did the testing to identify errors
- The initial failure was due to a data problem with SIS Data.
- Course codes have been adjusted. Course codes in Calista were recorded as ABA in SISOne needs ABA 01. Staff will need to be trained and the team are looking for a resolution in the Moodle project.
- Got sign-off to turn extract on and have been working to verify all the enrolment variations since May 8
- All late enrolments will be picked up. It is ok to go for Semester 2
- Business owner (Ric) acknowledged the hard work of staff to identify and solve problems often before the problems became manifest to the rest of the University.

B2 Moodle

1. Moodle moot

- Conference was on earlier this week
- Liked the student focus functions: tracking through a subject, Donna attended a Moodle themes workshop explored capacity for users to customise Moodle and the potential applications for accessibility and multimedia
- The ability of creates site, category and course templates (great flexibility); but will there be issues about support/ degree of restraint that will be necessary to control all the variations in relation to the ways the variations can be supported.
- Lack of consistency for students may also be an issue.
- Re: role functionality we need to look at how the roles interact, LMSAG may have to examine this further
- Impressive potential about the capacity to integrate library e-resources and services
- Great networking with other Universities experiencing the same issues and plans as us
- LTU seems to be leading the field in the amounts of freedom/flexibility given to academic staff
- Appropriate and flexible tools and training to support migration will be key to the different conceptual environment - design for orienting staff to the flat/flatter structure
- Perception is key to success, so many of the small things like look and theme change the user experience quite a lot. The Training and promotion needs to manage the perceptions (developed or existing) of staff
- And many times 'the look' is something than can easily be left out as it's not functionally important.
- Death by scrolling versus death by nesting
- Resolution around some of these design issues will take time
- There is risk if planning and training are not fully considered: the initial experience of staff engagement with the new product needs to be as positive as possible. Significant staff training is required. Plan should be to make it as positive as possible. Timing around implementation and usual timing for staff leave are not compatible: Semester 1 launch and staff leave most likely ahead of that implementation may be something that we need to be risk managed carefully.
- What are the issues around unique migration/s? ; e.g. complex subjects/content with learning modules with sequenced pages etc.
- When shown Moodle 2 at conference it looked a much better product and less messy than previous demonstrations

2. Playground in Moodle

- Not recommended by Netspot that people 'play' in the current environment
- Waiting for contract signing before the playground will be activated, may be about one month for next release Moodle 2.0 availability. A lot hangs on *when* we sign with Netspot. Still a lot of work to then set up accounts etc. better to set up appropriately and not rush through: issue around the file structure will require a bit of time.
- Question from Ric: Do people need access to their content at the same time as access to Moodle. Earlier access to blank sites or would LMSAG folk want access to at least one migrated shell so they see what comes over and what it looks like

- Is it possible to get access ahead of academic staff so that there is opportunity to practice and learn and respond to teaching staff's questions?
- This question posed by Ric received general response consensus for earlier access to at least one or two populated and at least one empty shell
- Key staff need and prefer early access: earlier accessers agree to early adoption with understanding that there will be some changes later on

3. Timeline for implementation of Moodle

- No contract as yet, and therefore a lot of unknowns but there is a preferred objective of having the new LMS up and running for Semester 1 if this can be achieved safely and responsibly. If this cannot be done, the Business Owner will review other options including a staged or postponed implementation. So discussion of timelines is not yet possible.
- A reference group's input to the development of a timeline will be most welcome
- Critical issue will be how effective the conversion is; there will be critical decision points along the roll-out plan; (which will affect the development of the timeline).
- There was some general discussion at this point about ideas/options training for (potential) additional staffing and/or online training resources to facilitate implementation

Cut and paste from the Chat:

- moodle.org will eventually become a significant resource for 2.0
- the problem with 2.0 will again be the flexibility of themes as our moodle could look so different to somebody else's so it's difficult to have training materials that match both.

C O THER BUSINESS

C1 Establishment of LMS Implementation Reference Group

- Will LMSAG take this role or will a separate group be established?
- Chair could call for representatives from Faculties, Equity and Diversity
- How big can the group be?

The link to Lilian broke for a few minutes at this point.

- Paul Lilian and Ric will continue this discussion post-meeting and resolve via consult by email to LMSAG.

Suggested options:

- Faculty reference groups feed into the "official" Reference group
- develop a tree structure, where faculty can develop a cohesive view to bring to the reference group
- Wiki and blog tools

C2 Issue of multi-level subjects in LMS on the agenda

Holdover til August meeting

C3 Subjects requiring ongoing access to Blackboard in Semester 1, 2011

Holdover til August meeting