

RACDE Meeting Minutes

Friday, Sep 20, 2019

(In conjunction with INTERACT USG 2019 at Savannah Convention Center at Savannah)

FROM 9:00 AM -11:00 am

Attendees

Alla Yemelyanov (Georgia Southwestern State University)
Amy Austin (eCampus)
Brichaya Shah (Kennesaw State University)
Darryl Hancock (Fort Valley /state University)
George Wright (Georgia Tech)
Irene Kokkala (University of North Georgia)
Janet Gubbins (University of West Georgia)
Jeff Linek (Georgia Highlands College)
Julian Allen (Georgia State University)
Kokila Ravi (Atlanta Metropolitan State College)
Lisa McNeal (College of Coastal Georgia)
Marsha Dukes (Valdosta State University)
Michael Kirkland (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College)
Myk Garn (USG System Office)
Neil Rigole (Middle Georgia State University)
Stephen Balfour (University of Georgia)
Sarah Selby (South Georgia State College)
Traci Adkins (Georgia State)
Terri Brown (East Georgia State College)

9:00-9:10 Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Call to Order: Dr. Kokila Ravi, RACDE Chair, extended a warm welcome to the group and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Leaves the floor after introducing Tracy Adkins.

9:01 – 9:37 From Tracy Adkins (GSU, Director, Learning Technology on “Accessibility/UDL Work as it Pertains to the Digital Learning Environment and Faculty Development at Georgia State University”.

Blackboard Ally is an add-on for D2L, Canvas, Blackboard Learning Management System

- Students can look at instructor-assigned content in all formats (ie. HTML, eReader, PDF, etc.), unless they have access to alternative formats.
- For instructors, Blackboard Ally can give training and give feedback on content accessibility and provide training if necessary; there’s no need to contact D2L support for help on accessibility.

- Tracy gives an example in the content tool what is only visible to the instructors of the format from the instructor’s perspective.
- Color-coded indicators show instructors how accessible the content (files, link, audio clips, etc.) will be for the students.
- There will be an “alternate format” option for both students and instructors to see and access.
- Built within the system is a learning function that “learns” about the most commonly chosen format students download.
- Variety of format options for students to download, including translator option
- Translator option, however, it only has an “on/off” function; instructor can manually choose which content to translate.
- Instructors do have the ability to turn off the “alternative format” option for individual content.
- Tracy demonstrates another screenshot, from instructor’s perspective, of a file being downloaded into D2L.
- Similar indicators to show accessibility of documents being downloaded and offers training in case there are errors.
- Eliminates need to contact D2L support since Blackboard will offer any training for issues that may come up with download.
- Course Report, or Ally Report, is provided to every instructor; includes a “course score” for each course they manage.
- Shows the instructors any minor issues with an easy-to-fix solution that can improve “course score”; can also include suggestions on how to improve the file in question.
- Allows room for instructor to improve their course with each problem solved.
- There’s also an “institutional report” that allows colleges/universities to filter courses from each college for evaluation.
- Can be organized by term, academic year, etc.
- Students have more agency on how they choose to access these documents
- Utilizing Blackboard Ally will raise faculty awareness about accessibility and, overall, universal design
- Also provides any training for instructors that come across any accessibility issues
- Phase 1: Blackboard Ally will collaborate with Perimeter College in Fall 2020
 - Just selecting courses through institutional reports (Social Science, Humanities, and Business)
 - Will only choose the top 3 of highest priority based on institutional reports
 - Departments will be contacted to do “beta training” for Blackboard Ally for their courses
- Phase 2: Blackboard Ally will be expanding to other colleges in Spring 2020 before fully going live in Summer 2020.

- Blackboard Ally offers “Mastering” course series through D2L; has been doing it for six year and updates periodically.
- These courses offer help in mastering accessibility, online teaching, mastering [student] engagement, mastering assessment.
- VoiceThread and caption technology training workshops are offered to instructors.
- Instructors can have one-on-one training through Blackboard Ally and instructional designer.
- Tracy answers questions about Blackboard Ally; emphasizes the need for Ally to be use of Ally for disabled students.
- Dr. Kokila Ravi mentioned there will be a workshop (end of October).

9:37-9:54 – Jim Barnaby, USG Strategic Sourcing Director

- Jim introduces himself to audience. Responsible for USG’s contract and solicitation work; also, the Procurement Officer, works as liaison between board regents and department of administrative services
- Conducted e-tutoring solicitation by RFP, which is the best value cost-efficient
 - A lot of institutions (colleges, universities) were trying to implement e-tutoring through one source.
 - Jim gets involved with his team (P-cap) to evaluate and justify if a client’s entire system needs their contract work.
- Wants to ensure the best security and most engagement of his contract work. Performance guarantees are put into the contracts.
- Two contract examples:
 - Tutor.com – costs \$24/hour fixed rate, contract lasts 5 years, unused hours can roll over at no additional charge
 - Smart Thinking – costs \$23/hour fixed rate, similar performance guarantee to Tutor.com, and unused hour rollover; currently there’s an amendment that says it’s \$20/hour for one “electronic” subject for the first year
 - Link System was close, but they did not have it ready at the time.
 - There’s no need to be “forced” to go through the contact; Jim and his team can look further into it in case you have issues with specific e-tutoring venue
 - A summary sheet was handed out.
 - Question: Is there a place that we can locate all the system contracts? If you have PeopleSoft, you can see the system contracts.

9:55-10:19 – Myk Garn, Assistant Vice Chancellor for New Learning Models, University System of Georgia

- Momentum approach: frequent meetings due to how quick academics is changing. We are having weekly meetings. The summit was the largest last year. We are moving high end practices to roll out and build into Banner.
 - on their major.
 - Working with Banner to track impact.
 - Currently increasing in usage with over 110 chancellor sponsorship, 1500 people impacted so far.
 - We are working on the academic mind set
 - Jeff is working on his learning communities. We have about 900 people impacted.
 - Used to help students in career paths (ie. DegreeWorks) and have better focus
 - Mindset meeting possibly on November 8th, 2020 with over 200 faculty members working with motivate labs and experimental studies. Send positive messages to students to give positive feedback and encouragement whether student does well on assignment or offer tutoring/resources for students not doing so well.
 - eCampus working on positive messages out to students.
 - Moocs for faculty- Example at Kennesaw State University, potentially get you certificate, credit and get you into a program.
 - Looking at Brightspace and how they can expand that out.
 - Service Learning, we can indicate if the course has service-learning component and the number of hours of service learning.
- Global learning
 - We now have a study abroad director, Sandy Rosner.
 - Lots of options for global learning projects and experiences
 - Students have more study abroad opportunities
 - Solea and Irex– programs that promotes virtual connections. These are opportunities for faculty to build global experiences. This is the time to build the activities.
- Service-learning component – used to measure how much time someone is putting in to use component
 - eCore is looking for more information on service learning
 - FinTech Academy – soft rollout during Summer 2020
- Some colleges produce transcripts and building core curriculum activities
- Competency-based learning
 - Adaptive learning – faculty keeping students in eCampus.
- Newton has higher amount of dual-enrollment students
 - Withdrawal rate was lower.

10:20-10:34 – Lisa Kafati, Director, Learning Management System

- Discussion about Brightspace, D2L and core-level system “packaging”
 - We are now in the cloud in D2L in January.
 - System level packages is basic level; can’t get institutional level.
 - Next level is Performance Plus and Engagement Plus. We are doing an evaluation on these packages.
- Trying to work with D2L to provide other options
- New cloud features
 - Continuous delivery; frequent updates to cloud system, every month.
 - Moving to the cloud there is no down time.
 - D2L eCore portfolio product put a ticket in for assistance
 - Data hub is new to the cloud. Data that has two different break downs.
- Brightspace data hub has raw data. It’s not a one size fits all. Brightspace data is the raw data. It is not as simple to push the button and get the data and report. Having a clear use case for your institution to use the data coming out of D2L. CIO, LMS team, developers on the campus, USG team, Infrastructure specialist, data stewards, institutional research, student success, instructional designers, and others.

New Business/Open Discussion/Dismiss

- Kokila talked about RAC chairs training in Macon. How and why of creating Accessible documents on GATech ON Nov 14th 9-12 GATech campus?
- Questions: Kokila will follow-up on if SDS from campuses to invite to the session. Is the faculty development from eCampus now available to all USG institution?
- Spring 2019 Minutes was approved.
- March time was suggested and March 26 and 27 at Atlanta Metropolitan Campus.

Big Kudos to Kokila for keeping us on track!

11:00 Adjournment. Safe travels!