

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (SCIT)**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
March 11, 2014

[In these minutes: IT Input Gathering; Moodle Update; ESUP Update.]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

**PRESENT:** Jim MacDonald (chair), John Butler, Bradley Cohen, Sean Conner, Yiwen Li, Karen Monson, Robert Rubinyi, Noel Schumacher, Yuk Sham, Lara Friedman-Shedlov, Tom Shield, Eric Watkins

**OTHERS:** Bernard Gulachek, associate vice president, OIT

**GUESTS:** Peg Sherven, Service Director, Academic Technology Tools, IT and Mark McKay, AT Tools Analyst; William Dana, John Vollum

**REGRETS:** John Butler, Ted Higman, Benton Schnabel, Zachary Shartiag, Mary Vavrus

**ABSENT:** Stephen Levin, Tisha Turk

**WELCOME**

Mr. MacDonald called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

**IT INPUT GATHERING**

Bernard Gulachek, associate vice president, Office of Information Technology, and Dennis Depp, associate CIO, Law School and OIT, began their presentation with a PowerPoint that visually depicted the IT governance model. Mr. Gulachek met with members last year at this time during the input gathering phase. He highlighted the following points in the presentation:

- What we heard from last year's process
  - Academic Technology (AT) Tools
  - End user support/computer management
  - Collaboration
  - All (Communications/Innovation)
  - Networking (esp. wireless)
  - AT Spaces
  - Video conferencing
- FY15 Input Leads to Top IT Community Priorities  
The FY15 governance process resulted in the following four priorities, which the IT@UMN community has been advancing via formal communities of practice (fCoPs):
  - [Improving Academic Technology Tools](#)

- Moodle improvements (Gradebook, listening methods, suggestion library).
  - [Enhancing User Support](#)  
Standard operating procedures implemented in five units and continues.
  - [Improving WiFi](#)  
~400 access points enhanced, nearly 500 new access points installed by spring semester.
  - [Modernizing Learning Spaces](#)  
Inventory of technology in spaces, considering learning spaces call-center consolidation.
- Additional Initiatives
  - Drupal Implementation.
  - CRM Implementation.
  - AHC Moves to Gmail.

Mr. Gulachek then asked members for their input and they provided the following:

- Remote access in a secure environment (HIPPA, other security issues).
- More wireless, extending to outdoor environment, especially St. Paul campus.
- Horizontal integration—fragmenting our environment rather than integrating (e.g., door security managed by spreadsheets!).
  - Web application for security management of spaces.
  - Integration roadmap.
  - Integrated building security/access/management.
- Mobile app for the University.
- Enhancing remote teaching technologies (web conferencing, facilities).
- Recoding studios, production service, raising the bar.
- Student access to labs, software access (Blegen 4th floor).
- Mobile services (PS, portal).
- Virtual desktop/applications.

Mr. Gulachek encouraged members to complete the survey and share it:

[https://umn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_egKDQSpJxNqeLYx](https://umn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_egKDQSpJxNqeLYx).

## MOODLE UPDATE

Peg Sherven, Service Director, Academic Technology Tools, IT and Mark McKay, AT Tools Analyst, provided members with an update on the improvements being made to Moodle. They used a PowerPoint to highlight the following points:

- Our Charge: Improve Moodle
  1. Improve usability and effectiveness of the gradebook.
  2. Identify and develop an implementation plan for the top 5 enhancements from faculty and students.

- Analyzing: 1500+ suggestions > Top 30 > Top 5

## Top 5 Requests

---

- ✓ Homework dashboard: Reminder tool for students
- ✓ All-in-one-place student grade report
- ✓ Mobile interface 'facelift'
- ✓ Google calendar integration
- ✓ Forum post counts & analytics (Moodle core pipeline)

- Moodle Process Improvement
  - Z.umn.edu/learnmoodle is an online resource for Moodle users including faculty and students.
  - There is a YouTube channel that includes Moodle Student Orientation videos.
- Concerted IT Effort to Improve Moodle
  - 70+ Moodle Enhancements
  - My Grades: All Moodle Course Grades in One Place
  - Homework Dashboard for Students
  - Moodle & Google Calendar Integration
  - Customizable 'My home' page
  - Moodle Kiosk: 5 years of Moodle courses at-a-glance
- Gradebook Enhancements
  - Hidden Gradebook Items Now Score Properly
  - Fixed Aggregate Only Non-empty Cells
  - Columns Can Now be Frozen
  - Edit by item & Edit by student
  - They focused on gradebook calculations accuracy and users now have the ability to expand content on the screen.
- New Capabilities, Easier Access
  - PeopleSoft Grade Export
    - Export in a Format Ready for PS
  - Lesson FlowViewer
    - Visually Illustrates Branching Scenarios
  - Library eReserves Block
    - Access Course Readings Directly from Moodle
- The Lesson Tool now has a flow viewer. This helps instructors customize the student learning experience.
- Increased focus on training and targeted communications
  - Videos: Academic Technology YouTube Channel
    - z.umn.edu/learnmoodle
  - Promotion through networking events, iCoPs.
  - Moodle "clinics" planned for Fall 2014.

- Moodle 2.6: Academic Year 2014-2015
  - Responsive Design - Better for Mobile
  - Assignments
  - Grading Workflow
  - Annotate PDFs in Moodle
  - Badges
  - Cleaner 2 column interface aka “Clean Theme”
  - MANY more improvements in the pipeline

Ms. Sherven opened the discussion for comments and questions:

- What was the extent of the collaborations on the changes? Did they involve the Moodle Core Team?
  - Mr. McKay responded they share any changes with the Moodle organization. It is challenging since they are based in Australia.
  - Mr. Cohen emphasized that this is a critical time to provide input because the community is particularly engaged and there is an iCoP organized around this topic.
- What is the extent of the effort for the upgrades?
  - Some of the changes are integrated, while others are not. The modifications need to be managed if they are not incorporated into the core.

## **ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS UPGRADE PROGRAM (ESUP) UPDATE**

William Dana, project director, ESUP – Enterprise Portal and Student Systems, and John Vollum, project analyst, ASR, presented updates on the Enterprise Portal and Student Systems workstreams. They used a PowerPoint to present the following:

- ESUP Official Go-Live Dates Set
  - February 2015
  - No scope change
  - Focus on quality
  - Additional 60 days for testing
  - Remains within budget
- High-level Milestones
  - Training will begin in the fall and minimally in the summer.
  - They will complete a total of five “Test Moves” before the system goes live.
- Engagement by the Numbers
  - Mr. Dana emphasized that the Portal will not be a replacement for umn.edu.
  - They engaged many users at the beginning of the Portal development and have a better understanding of the University’s needs.
- Portal Business Processes
  - Content will be pushed to users.

- This will be a replacement of MyU, but the name will stay the same.
- About IntraSee
  - Their focus is on user experience in the PeopleSoft space.
  - They bring both products and consulting services = faster uptime.
  - Strategic partner with Oracle.
  - There is no need to modify the base applications in this iteration.
- Portal Functional Steering Committee Representation
- 3-2-1 Design Process
  - February 25<sup>th</sup> the final design was approved.

Mr. Dana shared several screenshots with the members of the core design, but changes will be made as the process continues. Members offered the following input:

- The user should modify notifications so they can select their priorities. Notifications can be dismissed and they will be closed when they are completed.
- Systems outside of PeopleSoft that members use frequently:
  - The Libraries Intranet
  - Med School Reporting and HR Tools
  - Financial reports on sponsored projects
  - Notifications from grants and proposals
  - Reports: Permission Numbers, Student Advisee lists, Class lists
  - Payroll Approvals and Reports
- Absence management should be delivered through the

Mr. Vollum explained that training will be available online for PeopleSoft systems and processes, such as grading. It has been discussed that there are often internal people that the faculty seek out for help. He then asked members if they had suggestions for identifying “go-to” people. Members offered the following suggestions:

- Many faculty will assume the IT staff can help.
- Members mentioned that the AHC does not have internal IT staff.
- Will the identified people be overwhelmed with questions in addition to their regular workload?
- Support staff.

In the interest of time, Mr. MacDonald adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich  
University of Minnesota