AHC FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC FCC)
March 21, 2017
Minutes of the Meeting

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 represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration or the Board of Regents.

[**In these minutes:** Learning Management System Review; April 13, 2017 "Third" Thursday; AHC FCC Website; Invitation to Dr. Sophia Vinogradov to Future AHC FCC Meeting; Debrief from February 21, 2017 Meeting with AHC Collegiate Chairs; Agenda Items for April 5, 2017 Meeting with Dr. Jackson]

PRESENT: Wendy St. Peter, chair pro tem, Cathy Carlson, Les Drewes, Paul Jardine, Angela Panoskaltsis-Mortari, Kyriakie Sarafoglou

REGRETS: Kathleen Krichbaum

ABSENT: John Connett

GUESTS: Donalee Attardo, senior director of Academic Technology, and Professor Lee-Ann Breuch, Writing Studies, and chair of University Learning Technology Advisors

OTHERS ATTENDING: Emily Ronning, assistant to the provost, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

1. **Learning Management System Review**: Professor St. Peter, chair pro tem, convened the meeting and welcomed today's guests, Donalee Attardo, senior director of Academic Technology, and Professor Lee-Ann Breuch, Writing Studies, and chair of University Learning Technology Advisors (ULTA) - http://ulta.umn.edu/. Before beginning, she called for a round of introductions. Following introductions, Professor St. Peter turned the meeting over to Professor Breuch and Dr. Attardo.

First, a handout containing quick facts about the Learning Management System (LMS) review was distributed to members. Professor Breuch began by providing information about ULTA, which she noted is an advisory body to Provost Hanson and Interim Chief Information Officer (CIO) Bernie Gulachek that was created this academic year. ULTA is comprised of 28 faculty members from across the University of Minnesota system, including the Academic Health Center (AHC). Professor Breuch explained that ULTA is responding to the proposal of whether or not the University should continue its membership in Unizin (http://unizin.org/), a consortium of institutions of higher education that are working together to transform the digital learning ecosystem. If the University continues its Unizin membership, it will need to adopt Unizin's LMS platform, which is Canvas (https://www.canvaslms.com/). Professor Breuch said while no decision has been made yet, it is the position of the leadership within the Academic Technology unit of the Office for Information Technology (OIT) that the University should continue its membership in Unizin and move to Canvas. With that said, Professor Breuch emphasized that it is the mission of ULTA to provide the faculty voice to this decision-making process.

As the ULTA membership talked through its charge a number of issues came to light and one of these were concerns about the sustainability of the University's current onsite Moodle system. Reports indicate that the University is one of, if not the largest site running Moodle, and it is currently running at capacity. With this said, and separate from the LMS decision, the University is also going to have to change how it runs Moodle, and this will mean moving to a cloud-based service called Software as a Service (SaaS).

What does 'running at capacity' mean, asked Professor Mortari? Professor Breuch said because the uses of Moodle have grown over the years, there are storage capacity issues. Dr. Attardo noted that Moodle is completely managed by University staff, which means that all the infrastructure and hardware lives at the University. She added that it is a complicated system and so when any part of the system has a problem, the entire system goes down. SaaS, on the other hand, is a cloud-hosted LMS service. Members were encouraged to visit the ULTA website for more information - http://ulta.umn.edu/.

Professor Breuch said the University joined Unizin in 2014, and one of the reasons the University needs to decide this spring if it will continue its membership or not is because its membership expires in May of 2017. She added that one thing that is known from studies that have been conducted is that students prefer to have one LMS and not two. As a result, the idea of running both Moodle and Canvas is not realistic for students, or for infrastructure and technology reasons. If the decision is made to stay with Moodle, this too will require a change because the University will have to move to Moodle supported by Moodlerooms (https://www.moodlerooms.com/why-moodlerooms/), which is a cloud-based system. To clarify, said Professor St. Peter, whichever LMS the University chooses, it has to move to a cloud-based system. Yes, said Professor Breuch, and noted that vendor demonstrations of Moodlerooms and Canvas are happening this week on campus and also being recorded and posted online for those who are unable to attend the demonstrations in person.

Moving on, Professor Breuch highlighted the criteria ULTA developed, which will be used to inform the recommendations ULTA makes to the provost and CIO, and these include:
- Improvement of the student experience.
- Positive impact on student learning.
- Minimum migration impact.
- Maximum functionality.
- Balance of costs and benefits.
- Embrace future needs, particularly as it relates to Next Generation Digital Learning Environment (NGDLE).

Professor Breuch emphasized that ULTA is not making the final decision on this matter, but rather it is reviewing the information and will put forward recommendations to the provost and CIO.

Professor Mortari said that the Medical School currently uses Black Bag as its LMS. How will this factor into whatever LMS decision is made? Dr. Attardo said that when the Canvas pilot was launched, the Medical School reached out to OIT to talk about its options. In her opinion, the Medical School is no longer interested in managing its own LMS.

Given the need for the University to move to a cloud-based LMS, will this result in cost savings for the institution, asked Professor Mortari? Dr. Attardo said based on the financial analysis that was conducted comparing Moodle, Moodlerooms, and Canvas/Unizin, a cost savings is projected.

What is the downside to moving to a system that is managed completely outside the University, asked Professor St. Peter? She added that currently if Moodle goes down, the University starts working on getting it back up and running right away. Dr. Attardo said a downside could be poor vendor support; however, this is being taken into consideration throughout this entire process. Canvas by Instructure has an incredibly good reputation for customer service. To date, Instructure has not lost any of its early adopter customers. She noted, however, that the University will not get the same level of customization that it is used to when it moves to a hosted system. While this does not mean that customization will not be possible, it means it will be done on the edges rather than in the core application.

Moving on, Dr. Attardo continued the presentation and highlighted the following:
- Three Canvas instructor experience public sessions have been held. During these sessions, instructors who have used Canvas talked about what they like and don't like about the LMS.
- Approximately 66 instructors this semester have piloted Canvas and about 3,500 students.
- Since the piloting began, the Center for Educational Innovation has conducted three assessments (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, and Fall 2016) of instructors' and students' experiences and generated reports based on the assessment results. Report results were then shared with members via a series of charts and graphs. It was noted that the clear preference by instructors and students alike was Canvas.
- Canvas features students like included the mobile application, peer review, grade projecting, calendar, and its overall look and feel. Both instructors and students commented on how clean and streamline Canvas is as well as how easy it is to get around.
- Canvas features that students did not like included the discussion threading (hard to follow), and the layout and navigation, which a number of people did not find linear.
- Canvas features instructors liked included its efficiency, the mobile application, and speed grader.
- Canvas features instructors did not like included the discussion threading, student tracking, Canvas being proprietary versus open source, quizzing, and multiple notifications.

Moving on, Dr. Attardo provided information about Moodlerooms. She noted that Moodlerooms is the largest Moodle partner in the world. Moodlerooms has met extensively with University personnel to ensure they would be able to handle a client as large as the University of Minnesota and they were confident they would be able do so. Additionally, she noted that Moodlerooms is SaaS, but flexible and customizable and is owned by Blackboard.

Dr. Attardo then spent a few minutes talking about software delivery themes and noted that the University currently uses a "theme" in Moodle called the "Clean" theme. If the University moves to Moodlerooms set up with the "Clean" theme, the transition will be easier. However, the "Clean" theme will soon be discontinued in Moodle, so the University would have no choice when this happens but to move to one of Moodlerooms' other themes, either "Boost" or "Snap."

The "Boost" and "Snap" themes are both more accessible and have a modern user interface that is mobile friendly, which would be an advantage over the current "Clean" theme, but if the University moves to the "Snap" or "Boost" themes at the time it moves to Moodlerooms, the transition would require courses to be reworked just as they would with a move to Canvas. Conversely, if the University moves to Moodlerooms using the "Clean" theme, the University would have to make another transition to the "Boost" or "Snap" themes in the next two years.

Professor St. Peter asked why faculty should be motivated to attend the demonstrations that have been scheduled. Professor Breuch explained that the demonstrations go over scenarios of uses highlighting the key Canvas features, e.g., how to set up an assignment, speed grader.

In light of time, Dr. Attardo spent the remaining few minutes providing information about Unizin, which she explained is a consortium of 11 universities and is university-owned and directed. Because each university owns and directs Unizin, they each have two seats on its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for deciding about the services and applications that Unizin creates, and the direction Unizin will take. Each member institution works with the Unizin sponsor teams as applications are created for beta testing, etc. The purpose of Unizin is for the consortium to be more involved and to direct and create its own teaching and learning technology ecosystem that it controls and owns. Unizin focuses its efforts on: 1) digital content, 2) learning environment/platform (LMS), and 3) analytics (data). Unizin consortium membership provides:
- Content discovery.
- Content creation.
- Course material delivery.
- Faculty/student dashboards.
- Learning analytics.
- Multi-institutional data.
- Consortial collaboration.
- Influence on technology development.

Do educational grants help fund Unizin membership, asked Professor Mortari? She said she is wondering about the cost of membership because there could be grant opportunities to help with the cost. In response, Dr. Attardo said the idea behind the consortium is that member institutions bring their brainpower to the table, which, in turn, provides the developers with the information they need to create a teaching and learning technology ecosystem for its member institutions.

In response to a question about Unizin and Canvas, Professor Breuch explained that the University could chose to continue to be a member of Unizin without using Canvas. However, this would mean that the University would not benefit from the Canvas system. Dr. Attardo

added that Canvas is the LMS platform that Unizin uses, and the rest of what Unizin is developing connects to other aspects of this platform in an effort to take advantage of the data warehouse, ways to use content discovery and creation, etc. The reason Unizin chose Canvas as its LMS is so that it would be able to partake of functional areas that are in the NGDLE as previously mentioned. In a traditional LMS, all of its parts are proprietary, but with a NGDLE system and Canvas there is interoperability.

To clarify, said Professor Mortari, a transition to Moodlerooms would be easier for faculty, but Unizin offers a much more powerful system. Yes, said Professor Breuch, a transition to Moodlerooms would be less intrusive for faculty. Having said that, ULTA is looking at the long-term benefits as it develops its recommendations. She said as chair of ULTA she plans to focus the feedback that is received based on the criteria that ULTA developed. People have a lot of personal preferences as to why they prefer one system over another, but her goal will be to have people provide feedback that is based on the criteria that ULTA developed. Professor Breuch encouraged members to email her (lkbreuch@umn.edu) with any questions, comments or thoughts on this proposal or to complete the feedback form on http://ulta.umn.edu. Dr. Attardo admitted that the last LMS migration that took place at the University did not go smoothly; however, this migration would be different because Moodle will not be turned off at any particular time. Therefore, there will be a lengthy transition, e.g., 18 – 24 months, and additionally, OIT will be prepared to offer help and resources to help with the migration. Whatever decision is made, Moodlerooms or Canvas, OIT will help with the transition.

Professor St. Peter thanked Dr. Attardo and Professor Breuch for their informative presentation. In turn, Dr. Attardo and Professor Breuch thanked members for inviting them to attend this meeting.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, members spent a few minutes debriefing from the presentation.

2. **April 13 "Third" Thursday**: Next, the committee talked about 1) Duluth participation in the April 13 "Third" Thursday event, and 2) attendance in general given the event's St. Paul campus location. In Professor Carlson's opinion, she believes a lot of St. Paul Veterinary Medicine faculty will attend because the event is being held on the St. Paul campus and it will be so convenient. She said she would definitely promote this event to her faculty. Professor St. Peter said it is important to hold this event on the St. Paul campus because by not doing so disregards faculty on that campus.

Professor St. Peter asked Professor Drewes for his thoughts on having Duluth faculty participate. Professor Drewes said he is not sure the topic will be of interest to Duluth faculty given its focus on high-resolution MRI imaging for dental applications. Professor Jardine said the presentation is not intended to be a dental topic because high-resolution MRI imaging has implications far beyond dentistry such imaging complex tissues, implants, etc. Professor St. Peter asked Professor Jardine to talk with Dr. Nixdorf about modifying the title of the presentation so it has a broader impact beyond the School of Dentistry.

Members then talked about the fact that the February Third Thursday topic was related (high-resolution imaging of the brain) and wondered if this may have an impact on attendance. Professor Carlson said she does not believe the topic necessarily is the draw, but rather it is more the comradery. Professor St. Peter said that the people who attended the February Third Thursday could likely be interested in attending this presentation, assuming it was framed in a more general way. She also suggested sending the April Third Thursday announcement directly to Dr. Ugurbil, the February presenter, and ask him to promote it within the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research (CMRR). Professor Mortari suggested changing the title to "high-resolution MRI imaging and its applications," and volunteered to forward the announcement, once it is sent out from AHC Communications to Dr. Ugurbil.

In Professor St. Peter's opinion, even if only a few Duluth people participate, the event should be offered for the same reason that the AHC FCC wants to hold this event on the St. Paul campus, and Professor Drewes agreed. Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, encouraged AHC FCC members to promote this event in each of their schools.

3. **AHC FCC website update**: Regarding the question of posting each school's collegiate governance minutes on the AHC FCC website, members were not sure collegiate governance minutes would be of interest to AHC faculty, but other resources would be such as constitutions and bylaws for each school, promotion and tenure documents from each college, "how to" guidebooks, dossier templates, etc.

4. **Invitation to Dr. Sophia Vinogradov to attend a future AHC FCC meeting**: Members agreed that they would very much like to invite Dr. Vinogradov, head, Department of Psychiatry, to an upcoming AHC FCC meeting to hear from an IRB perspective what protocols are being implemented by the Department of Psychiatry, and their relevance to the other AHC schools/departments. Professor Jardine added that he would also be interested in knowing whether the layers of oversight and regulation that are being implemented are facilitating things or creating barriers.

5. **Debrief from February meeting with AHC collegiate chairs and agenda items for April 5 meeting with Dr. Jackson**: Members spent a few minutes debriefing from the February AHC meeting with the collegiate chairs. Professor St. Peter commented that the discussion about voting rights for contract/clinical faculty was of particular interest to the College of Pharmacy. As a result, she noted that the College of Pharmacy plans to launch a campaign to try and modify the voting rights of its contract/clinical faculty. Professor Jardine agreed that this topic was also valuable for the School of Dentistry. He said this is an example of an issue that could have implications for the entire AHC. Professors Mortari and Sarafoglou noted that because of the idiosyncrasies of each school rather than trying to do something across the six AHC schools that the schools could use the Medical School template to guide them in developing a plan that will work for their respective school. Professor St. Peter suggested creating a folder on the AHC FCC website that would contain resources that the schools would find valuable.

Regarding the team science issue that was discussed at the collegiate chairs meeting, Professor Jardine suggested this be an agenda item for the April 5 AHC FCC meeting with Dr. Jackson. Additional agenda items for this meeting that members suggested included:

- Faculty development and mentorship of junior faculty.
- Health Sciences Education Center update.
- Fairview/HealthEast merger.
- H index as it relates to rare diseases.

6. **Adjournment**: Professor St. Peter thanked members for a good discussion. Hearing no further business, she adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate Office