Learn@UW Steering Committee Meeting – May 18, 2009

Attended by:
Al Hartman, Kathy Pletcher, Lorna Peter Mann, Wong, Faith Hensrud, Jeanne Blochwitz, Bob Kaleta, Kathy Christoph, Doug Wahl, Chris Clements

Action Items

- Lorna will notify CIOs on D2L upgrade in June
- Peter will gather list of reports currently available to send to Doug, Al, and the Steering Committee
- Peter will gather a group (Reporting hot-team?) to come up with definitions of an 'Active Course'
- Al will connect with Ed and Lorna on the Special Licensing policy
- Peter will convene a SLA hot team to review and revise the current SLA in June
- Lorna will reserve room at the Pyle Center for summer retreat
- ALL – send agenda items for retreat to Al before end of May.

Retreat in July – Tuesday & Wednesday, July 28-29, 2009, Madison. Please mark your calendar.

Meeting Notes

D2L Mater Agreement Update - Lorna
Lorna reported for Ed that the Master Agreement is close to being finalized and signed. It took a few iterations for the two sides to come to terms regarding the protection UWS will have against disruption of service in the event that the pending lawsuit(s) affect the IP rights of the software. Ruth Ginzburg, Chris Asley, and Ed Meachen had actively engaged in the language negotiation.

D2L Legal Environment Update - Lorna
Lorna reported briefly on the legal saga between D2L and Blackboard this past year. The latest moves involve a new lawsuit that BB has brought against D2L in the Canadian Federal Court, and a complaint to the ITC (International Trade Commission). D2L claims they have lined up proper legal counsel to deal with these new suits. Details can be found on the blog site
http://www.desire2learn.com/patentinfo

Related: Blackboard has just announced the acquisition of the ANGEL CMS at the ANGEL user conference in Chicago on May 14. Interesting times ahead.

General D2L system update – Peter & Jeanne
Peter reported the smooth semester ending, with almost no outages through the final weeks. Steering Committee members agreed on no complaints or issues on the campuses.

Data Cleanup Progress is going well on all campuses. Faculty members in general were receptive. The actual operational steps are going slowly as expected as special precaution is taken during this first iteration. Utility expects to work through the summer for the course cleanup.

Major Version Upgrade – Jeanne

8.41MR1 are scheduled as follows:
Tuesday/Wednesday, June 15-16 (10-pm – 10am) – UWM
Tuesday/Wednesday, June 24-25 (10pm – 10am) – UWS

The biggest change that affects user will be the use of WebDAV protocol. The change will affect a better security of the system. It will involve users having to use a new/different URL. Utility is working with D2L for the best option to implement. Also, many Mulit-State institutions will be doing upgrade prior to our schedule. We do not expect major issues.

Reports
Elwg-Life Cycle Planning Task Force – Jeanne
The group has met 7 times so far, had engaged in useful and interesting conversation. They are shooting for an end of July target date for a report and recommendation. Al suggested the group to come up with a draft report at the retreat so to use the committee as a sounding board first.

Elwg- Models for Provisioning e-learning systems Task Force – Peter
The group has met a number of times, with engaging conversation and research done by smaller subgroups. Also shooting for an end of July target date for a report to the Steering Committee

Elwg – LOR – Lorna
Lorna reported the group also met regularly since January. They have gathered a lot of information regarding availability and use of repositories within the UW System. The group also conducted a system-wide survey with over 900 responses from faculty on their thoughts on importance of digital assets, use of repositories etc. The results will help guide the group in their final recommendations. D2LLR is still a product under consideration as they may meet the need of faculty who like to use a repository directly integrated with the CMS.

SLA Team – Peter
Peter got good responses from the Site-admins to participate in the review of the SLA. Will most likely call the group together in June, and divide work among the group, come up with a revised draft by August, and put in effect after final approval by the Steering Committee for fall semester.

D2L e-Portfolio – Lorna
Five campuses participated. The pilot is going slowly due to the compressed timeline and technical and policy issues. D2L will extend the pilot for 6 months which will give us one full year starting fall 2009. This will put us in a much better shape to plan the rollout to faculty. Bob Kaleta indicated there was a lot of interest at UWM from various disciplines in a program level, rather than just course levels.

D2L special licensing policy and usage –
Al will act on getting the group formed some time in the near future.

D2L Fusion 2010 – Kathy P & Lorna
D2L came for site visits early May in Green Bay and Madison. Kathy, Lorna, Peter met with them in GB. They have not gotten back to us. They are watching for the 2009 Fusion registrations at St. Paul. Kathy will attend the 2009 Fusion to talk to their organizers. Al will talk to the Provosts regarding promoting the conference once confirmed.

D2L Reporting – Peter & Al
The Reporting Hot Team has gathered a lot of information regarding needs and requirements from previous committees and initiatives. The team also learned about the D2L Analytics tool and a chat with Brian Ceparin about the future of the D2L LE reporting tool. The group needs to determine where best to spend efforts to get more information from the D2L data. Doug Wahl asked for the list of reports we currently generate. Peter will communicate back to the group. Al commented the file listing reports generated for Site Admins in preparation of Data Cleanup has been useful and should continue on a regular basis.

The group is interested in finding out Active Courses. Need a better definition of 'Active Course'. Currently using course enrollment of more than one may not be accurate as many campuses create course shells for all courses and enroll students accordingly. Peter will investigate.

Learn@UW common support material – Al
Common documentation exists and is shared currently among the site-admins, but more informally. Learn@UW also has built a sizeable knowledgebase on issues, problems, and common solution. A formal set of documentation may not be feasible because of limited resources. Lorna and Peter will bring this back to the Site-admins for further discussion.

Summer Retreat –
Date – Best – July 28-29, alternate – Aug 4,5
Location – Madison – Pyle Center
Lorna will follow up with reservations etc
Agenda suggestions from the group should be sent to Al by the end of May.
Al will work with Lorna and Kathy P to come up with the agenda.