

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Technology Coordinating Committee
February 8, 2019
Draft Minutes

Attended: Ken Agustin, Don Carlson (Zoom), Shahaf Dan, Christy Davis, Tim Druley, Debbie Fields (Zoom), Bruce Griffin, Richard Grow, Steve Gunderson (Zoom), Wing Kam (Zoom), Matthew Kim, Bill Komanetsky, Nathaniel Rice, Mike Seaton, Rachel Ugale, Scott Vigallon, Chasity Whiteside, Mariana Zuniga

Guests: Noell Adams (Zoom), Arun Goyal (Zoom), Amir Law

Call to Order – 9:00 AM

Approval of Agenda - approved

Approval of Minutes – approved

Blackboard Ally (Vigallon)

According to the law, we are mandated to make all courses in Canvas accessible to students with disabilities, and this has been challenging. Scott presented features of the product Ally, which has been purchased by Blackboard. The biggest problem he has seen is that posted Word documents and PowerPoint presentations are inaccessible. Using a product like Ally solves that problem. It puts files into different formats students can read or download, and all formats are accessible. It also provides information about accessibility of the content, including how to fix issues. We would know at a course level how much content is accessible and help remediate those issues.

Ally is expensive. There are about 14 colleges that have implemented it or planning to do so. The OEI hasn't made any deals with Ally because the cost is too high. Alternatively, this may avoid costs related to a lawsuit. There is a potential for funding if a connection can be made to retention or the funding formula.

Nathaniel said he recently viewed a presentation on UDOIT which is free and has 80% of the same functionality as Ally. Scott said UDOIT doesn't do Word and PowerPoint files which is a bigger issue and could be different for faculty to use. Tim added that in order to use UDOIT, you need to understand HTML, like the accessibility checker in Omni. If you don't understand how coding works, it makes it difficult. Scott said Ally is working on a rich content editor in Canvas, which doesn't have an accessible version. They are also working on the ability to correct Word documents directly in Canvas. Nathaniel will reach out to contacts who have experience with UDOIT. Bruce added that membership in the OEI will mean accessibility is going to be a requirement. Scott estimates 2-3% of content is fully accessible, even when doing trainings are being offered all the time. Bill suggested the cost would be minimal when viewed per section. Scott will arrange demo with Ally and Nathaniel will arrange one with UDOIT. Wing said a tool could be beneficial District-wide as there are a lot of Word & PowerPoint documents on the website in general. He suggested also looking at CommonLook which has features that can be incorporated into Microsoft Office. He asked if Ally could be used outside of Canvas and Scott responded that Ally has a tool that does websites, but he wasn't familiar with the product. There is also

a product called Equidox. Wing said he's looked at it but is concerned that users may not be able to work with it. Bruce said a culture needs to be created throughout the District where accessibility becomes a part of how things are done. Nathaniel said this could also help Canvas shell usage.

Guided Pathways (Komanetsky)

Bill reported that he was very engaged in technology for Guided Pathways over the break and was able to reach out to someone at EduNav to complete a demo in January. He was interested in finding something that could assist students with using DegreeWorks without having a counselor show them how to do it so they could focus on counseling. The pre-demo was impressive with what-if capabilities, connecting directly with DegreeWorks. Amir saw a demo at Grossmont College and it was well-received. He did share that Tamica Ward used it when she was at DeAnza College and her experience was different based on what was pitched during the demo. Bill has scheduled an EduNav demo for February 22, extending the invitation to the vice presidents at Chabot who have accepted. He's also arranging an LPC Flex Day presentation. This is one of the approved tools by the Foundation for California Community Colleges. Starfish is no longer being considered as it lacks what-if capabilities. Noell asked that she and Paulette Lino be invited to the demo. Bruce has arranged for an Ellucian demo to look at current products related to Guided Pathways that are already in place or waiting to be implemented.

Forms Taskforce Reboot

The Forms Task Force met recently and will start meeting immediately after TCC in March. The group began to revisit initial requirements and had a good brainstorming session, and the hope is to have it all coalesce in order to create a process for reviewing products. Meeting over the summer may be an issue, but most people will be available. Bruce has reached out to HR and will be reaching out to Finance to find out what is going directly into Self-Service Banner as this the task force is looking at the ability to use at the department level at the colleges instead of finding a solution for District forms.

Tech Planning

A meeting with the consultant is planned for later this month to review the scope of the plan.

Update to the Online Evaluation Process

Issues around updating the online evaluation process are complicated as this is part of the faculty contract and the FA and District are currently in negotiations. Changes to the online evaluation process could be a possibility if faculty decide to take this to the table. Debbie said the FA is currently talking more about OEI than the evaluation process but will bring this up at the FA executive board meeting later this month. Scott asked to be included in the discussion if there is any consultation to be made with Canvas.

Measure A IT Project Updates

Construction is starting at each campus with money set aside for new construction and broader IT projects.

Chabot has made major progress on updating wireless access points. This was a big step forward for data throughput. In support of construction, there has also been improvement of campus-wide cabling,

and that project is now complete. The big project on the horizon is moving the MPO, where telecom and internet arrive and land on campus. The site is currently in Building 200 and is at capacity. This will be a problem when construction begins and Building 200 is demolished. Preparations are also being made for DAS to improve cell reception indoors. Contracts are being signed with AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint, and eventually Verizon. This needs to be put in place because of the reflective glass that is being installed related to sustainability efforts.

Las Positas is much further along on their DAS project with most of the equipment having been deployed. Work needs to happen in the data center in order to host the equipment. An antenna also needs to be installed in order to read GPS. The same setup is occurring with the mobile carriers to connect. Room 2420 is also undergoing an overhaul. The campus is looking at new displays that are more vibrant.

Both campuses are updating their network switches. Additionally, new network staff has recently been hired.

Good of the Order

Tim was contacted by a vendor regarding a tool that allows users to check for web accessibility. It doesn't look to be user-friendly, although it claims to check PDFs.

Wing wants the group to consider having a District-wide committee for web accessibility to increase visibility to this issue. Bruce suggested having broad representation of faculty because it impacts them quite a bit within Canvas. He will take this to SLT and ask them to consider forming a committee, possibly jointly between ESS & TCC. Debbie asked if this committee should report to Academic Senate. Bruce said the SLT should make the determination. Since many web editors are classified professionals, we need to make sure they are included in this committee.

Scott said the Vision Resource Center at the State level is being pushed out to all colleges for professional development with the hope that this would become the hub for this kind of activity.

The meeting was adjourned 10:05 AM.