

## **LMS Transition Committee Proposal for LMS Platform and Third-Party Add-ons**

*The LMS Transition Committee proposes the following:*

*Southeastern Oklahoma State University adopts **Canvas** with **Yuja** for video, **Yuja Panorama** for accessibility, and **TurnItIn, Similarity + Originality** for plagiarism, and **Inspace** as a built-in collaborative video conferencing piece.*

### **Rationale**

The LMS Transition Committee was made up of representative faculty (5 members), staff (5 Members: 3 IT, 1 CIDT, 1 Disability Services), students (1 member), and administrators (2 members), all of whom had frequent opportunities to share concerns, ask questions, and shape the evaluation process. All were voting members in the final vote so that all constituencies of the university were represented.

Three platforms were evaluated by the LMS Transition Committee for potential adoption by Southeastern: Blackboard Ultra, D2L/Brightspace, and Canvas. This evaluation process began in September of 2021 and was concluded in March of 2022. The committee provided multiple opportunities to inform and gain input from faculty, staff, and students through forums, surveys, and an Information Fair. The Committee participated in numerous demonstration sessions with vendors. The committee also sought input from higher ed colleagues throughout our state through a state panel and the Information Fair.

This recommendation will result in a change that moves Southeastern away from Blackboard products. The LMS Transition Committee believes it is in the best interest of the university not to move to Blackboard's new system: Blackboard Ultra for the following reasons:

- Blackboard Ultra is not similar to Blackboard Learn to retain the component of familiarity for faculty.
- Blackboard Ultra does not have a survey tool. Surveys can only be conducted via quizzing.
- Blackboard Ultra has fewer adaptive release options than not only Canvas and D2L but also fewer than Blackboard Learn, making many use cases currently in effect unworkable.
- Blackboard is the only one of the 3 LMS options that does not have a built in Portfolio.
- Blackboard has the least developed LMS embedded video capability.
- Blackboard failed to supply useful references for universities already using Ultra. The best we had was a university doing a 1-course pilot and a university doing a 10-course pilot.

## LMS Transition Committee Proposal for LMS Platform and Third-Party Add-ons

- Blackboard is spread so thin with its multiple products that networking with other universities who have Blackboard is minimally helpful.
- Blackboard was the most difficult to work with for assistance in the process - least hands-on in the evaluation process.
- Blackboard strongly encourages a slow migration, moving first to Bb Ultra: Original View and later to Ultra Course View. Conflicting information regarding an eventual end of life for Original View has circulated among the references for Blackboard Ultra, but Blackboard makes it clear that the purpose of original view is to be temporary. Because Southeastern has planned a slow transition and braced the faculty, staff, and students for this change, taking an increasingly long time to fully transition to the end product seemed unnecessary. However, the end product did not seem complete and ready for full adoption, and no other universities in Oklahoma have made a full transition.

### Rationale for Recommending Canvas

Canvas has a variety of attractive features that committee members identified as important factors in their decision to move forward with a proposal to adopt Canvas as Southeastern's LMS platform for the next 5+ years. Canvas received a majority of the votes for LMS (7 in favor of Canvas; 3 in favor of D2L; and 3 abstentions). Below are features and considerations cited by LMS Transition Committee members to support their choice for Canvas:

- **Faculty preference** for Canvas was indicated on the survey after the information fair. 47.8% would prefer Canvas, 30.4% would be happy with either. 19.6% would prefer D2L.
- Many faculty members' experience with and preference for Canvas will aid in the **Change Management Process**.
- **Students** have consistently expressed a strong interest in moving to Canvas, and our survey of students indicated that many had experience with Canvas.
- Canvas provides a **robust digital portfolio** that is retained by the student after they leave the university. The portfolio has a similar appearance to LinkedIn and provides options to highlight specific skills and proficiencies the student has developed. The platform could be developed within programs to prioritize and feature learning artifacts and experiences relevant for graduate program admission and/or careers. Rubrics can also be aligned with learning artifacts within the portfolio to support reporting ability and credentialing in some programs.
- Many institutions in the state use Canvas and would be available for us to work with. This would be a great asset for CIDT and IT. There would also be more opportunity for faculty to **network** and share ideas with other faculty in the state.
- Canvas is a **proven and stable solution**. A big plus is their in-house, not-outsourced support. A common comment from references around the state who spoke at the State Panel was that "Canvas just works."

## **LMS Transition Committee Proposal for LMS Platform and Third-Party Add-ons**

- Canvas has a “**Speed Grader**” built in that will aid faculty in being both more thorough and efficient when grading and providing learner feedback.
- Canvas provides a template library and support to assist in the creation of our own **Course Templates**, which will simplify the creation process for DEC. Canvas templates can also be set to lock some features within the template in place to reduce confusion, and when changes occur, such as updated URLs or University Policies, they can be pushed out to all courses connected to the template, reducing the burden on faculty to make these updates.

### **Rationale for Recommending Yuja Video**

In the state panel discussion, it was brought up repeatedly that if we get Canvas, we need to get Studio with it. Studio is Canvas’s video solution. We then learned that many throughout the state had adopted alternative video solutions, so we explored the options. Studio, Yuja, and Panopto were included in the LMS Information Fair. The ability to have an integrated video tool to create videos within the LMS and provide video feedback to students was mentioned by faculty as an important consideration in the LMS survey that was administered in the fall (2021). Yuja was initially quoted at a higher rate, but in negotiations, they offered to match the price of Studio. It was then concluded by the LMS Committee that Yuja video provides the best functionality for the cost. LMS Transition Committee members offered the following support for their unanimous decision (11 in favor; 2 abstentions) to choose Yuja for this purpose.

- Yuja is integrated within the LMS, meaning you do not need to leave the platform to work from another video capture tool and then upload it to the LMS. Yuja will allow for the creation of videos that can accompany course content or as feedback to students.
- Yuja uses a playlist approach to organization which can be easily searched and prioritized.
- Yuja is a more robust platform, provided at the same price as the other options.
- The Yuja video editor is SLICK, offering advanced editing options!
- Yuja’s willingness to grow with us and to provide unlimited storage is amazing.
- Yuja has unlimited storage and powerful capabilities.
- Yuja will provide video analytics for faculty to see which students have watched their videos and other behaviors around views, such as whether they skipped some content.
- Yuja will enable faculty to overlay questions on videos that students must answer in order to continue watching.

### **Rationale for Recommending Yuja Panorama**

The ability to make course content easily accessible and available in multiple formats was a crucial requirement of both faculty and students, as was discerned from the LMS surveys. Southeastern currently has Blackboard Ally for this purpose. However, if Ally is purchased with

## **LMS Transition Committee Proposal for LMS Platform and Third-Party Add-ons**

an LMS other than Blackboard, the price is significantly increased (\$10,900/year vs \$28,000/year). The committee overwhelmingly voted for Yuja Panorama, with 11 votes, and the remaining two votes were abstentions. Yuja Panorama is an excellent accessibility tool with the same features offered by Ally but at a similar rate to what we now pay. Yuja Panorama would also be bundled with Yuja's video service. LMS Transition Committee members offered the following support for their unanimous decision (11 in favor; 2 abstentions). It has among its features:

- Automated alternative formats - accessible versions of documents in many varying formats
- Auto-captioning for both audio and video, with accuracy rates above 95%
- Generation of visual accessibility scores and a real-time comprehensive dashboard
- Specific feedback to aid instructors in making course materials accessible without having to search for the item to be remediated within the LMS
- In-depth Institutional reporting tools (assessment)
- Panorama is a definite upgrade over Ally, and is so at a more reasonable price.

### **Rationale for Recommending TurnItIn Similarity + Originality**

Canvas does not have a built-in feature comparable to SafeAssign. To preserve that feature, a third party is needed. Faculty who participated in the LMS survey overwhelmingly were concerned with ensuring academic integrity tools be available, and improved, with the new LMS. Similarly, members of the committee felt that the University should maintain at least the current level of academic integrity protection. Canvas has SpeedGrader built into its LMS, and allows instructors to view and quickly grade student assignments aligning with rubrics if desired, which was another strong preference as reported in the LMS survey. Similarity is the recommendation for the plagiarism tool, as we should maintain the current level of academic integrity protection. A majority of the LMS Transition Committee members voted in favor of the Similarity + Originality option (8 in favor of Similarity + Originality; 3 in favor of Similarity (only); 2 abstentions). Some advanced features of Similarity include

- Data insights to show deliberate text manipulation
- Color-coding, filters, and source comparison to easily view similar content
- Comprehensive database to compare assignments against
- Plagiarism detection extended to programming assignments

Lastly, an upgraded package called Originality is recommended by the committee as a more advanced level academic integrity tool. One of the biggest selling points is the contract cheating checker, which would evaluate student work throughout their student career, not just in a single course. There are some very positive student benefits to this package as well:

- Students are able to check text similarity and grammar before submitting
- Citation assistant finds missing citations and teaches proper citation style

## **LMS Transition Committee Proposal for LMS Platform and Third-Party Add-ons**

### **Rationale for Recommending Inspace**

Students placed importance on their ability to interact with their fellow students and to video conference from within the LMS according to our survey. Results were similar for the faculty. Unlike Zoom and Microsoft Teams, InSpace is geared towards education and has features which make it a more effective and interactive education tool than the other two video meeting programs. A majority of the LMS Transition Committee members voted in favor of Inspace (7 in favor; 3 opposed; 3 abstentions).

- A better approach to a virtual classroom setup, including:
  - A presentation room specifically designed to reflect a classroom environment
  - The ability to be broadcast with in breakout rooms and to all participants
  - Proximity-based audio adjustments
  - Superior collaborative writing/markup capabilities
  - Integrated PowerPoint/presentation tool operability in presentation area
  - Improved integrated whiteboard functionality
- The ability to set up spaces in-perpetuity for people to gather at will
- Breakout rooms
- Screen share capabilities
- Session recording

Inspace allows for a more robust teaching experience when compared to Teams and Zoom, and can be fully integrated into all popular LMSs (including Canvas). Feedback from faculty members who attended the LMS Transition Fair, and from LMS Committee members has been mostly positive. InSpace would be a tool that is integrated with the LMS to provide educational meetings. Zoom and Teams could still be used as video conferencing tools as well. We are currently waiting to hear about a state-wide contract which should reduce the cost of a contract with Inspace.

### **Impact**

Currently, we have over 2,000 courses annually delivered via our LMS. This change will impact over 7,000 students and over 200 faculty for at least the next 5 years. Canvas has the greatest market share of Oklahoma Higher Education Institutions and nationally. Many view Canvas as the industry standard. In order to remain competitive and maintain our advantage as a provider of fully online programs, we must maintain an online learning environment that is responsive to the needs of students, faculty, and staff. The third-party tools that have also been evaluated and selected for inclusion in this proposal are vital to providing a [high-quality experience, maintaining rigor, and supporting WCAG 2.0 accessibility requirements. We respectfully submit this proposal and look forward to the opportunity to support its implementation.