

November 29, 2011 - Joint Distance Education meeting:

1. Surveys
 - a. Jim Clarke shared faculty survey, results are mixed. Clear that there are problems and over half think we should look at other LMS. Jim asked faculty to comment on tools they like and don't like. The biggest problem areas relate to the calendar tool; quizzes/tests tool; course mail and discussion boards. Survey results indicated that faculty really like the new Grade Center, the ability to link to YouTube content and the ability to use rubrics to grade discussions and assignments.
 - b. Survey of other CCC, results are still pending, Jennie will send when she receives final.
2. Custom Login Page- There was definitely some confusion as to what action was agreed upon in a prior meeting. Josh has indicated that adjusting the CSS of the current page is quite difficult and we cannot just "add some links" to the generic BB page. He somewhat recreated the old WebCT login page for a quick fix but a total page redesign would take about 6 months because of all the other items on his plate. MJC is really missing the information and links from the old login page because they do not have a Faculty/Staff or DE area on the overall MJC website which is where Columbia has many of their faculty and student resources for DE. We will send some of our content suggestions on the mock up we saw to Josh/Jim but the consensus was to continue work on a totally redesigned page.
3. Quality Rubric – CC has reviewed numerous rubrics used for evaluating online courses. Melissa has taken the YFA contract approved faculty eval and added some of the features that were favored in other rubric and handed out an example. CC is planning a workshop where faculty will be paired and spend time using the rubric to review each other's online classes. The emphasis is on **peer support**, rather than peer evaluation. This conversation also addressed an agenda item added at the beginning of the meeting to address faculty/peer review. Deanne shared an idea from the conference where faculty evaluate a colleagues online class, then the instructor of that class evaluates another's class and so on so many faculty get both the experience of getting feedback on their class and giving it to another.
4. Spring Retreat – invite more people, try to get a broad representation. In addition to overall discussion, try to set up some break outs or workshops so faculty teaching in same disciplines can share and/or faculty interested in certain BB functions can all work together.
5. Renewal for BB – Spring 2013. Gina gave background info and assured everyone that there is no deadline pushing us to either stay or leave Blackboard. There is a general agreement to always be keeping an eye on new developments and other LMSs but those that are quite vocal about not wanting to stay with Blackboard need to be willing to step up and commit some time to working with the DE committees and doing some research, etc. In the meantime, the CC DE committee is focusing on student retention and faculty training for high quality online courses. MJC DE is in the process of applying for a Title 5 grant and needs to regroup and possibly restructure their DE program, in part because Jim Clarke is retiring. CC strongly adds their question and concern that MJC have a plan in place as to what will happen when Jim is gone.

6. Collaborate – Next generation of BB. Faculty can go to [coursesites.com](https://www.coursesites.com) and have free shell to play with and review these additional functions for possible consideration to purchase from BB.
7. Tips and Tricks – Some were shared in discussion of other agenda items but this will hopefully be incorporated into the Spring Retreat.
8. Voice Thread – Both MJC and CC have received some training on Voice Thread. Cost to the District to purchase would be \$5,000. Jim suggested waiting to see how many faculty start using this tool now that initial training has occurred and see whether there is enough interest to pursue the purchase.
9. Training for Students new to BlackBoard - MJC has been discussing a variety of ideas and may be putting forward a proposal to their Senate about a required pre-req class before students can take an online course. There was a variety of discussion about the best way to help students be prepared and CC shared some of the Tools they currently have such as the short and long orientation videos, f2f orientations, links within classes for student resources, embedded tutors, etc. There are many logistical considerations and this topic needs some additional and wider discussion to come up with some possible options.
10. A note from a prior discussion to be sure to move forward to the Datatel Steering Committee the request that there is consistent coding of hybrid/online classes between colleges.
11. Faculty peer review and support – item added to the agenda – see #3.
12. Melissa shared handouts concerning BB Service Pak 7 update with only two(2) resolved issues and a browser support handout. Jim Clarke gave the Date/Time of the Service Pak update, 12/29th 2:30 pm, hope to be back up and running by 2:30 pm 12/30 or sooner. Melissa mentioned the importance of letting faculty know this as that will be a prime course prep time for some faculty.