**Evaluation of Canvas by Faculty Participating in Summer 2017 Pilot**

Given increasing concern by faculty and staff regarding continual tweaks by Moodlerooms to our Learning Management System (LMS) that have resulted in at least short term issues, concern regarding negative changes in Moodlerooms’ functions and services, and the belief by many that a more “current generation” LMS could be secured, it was agreed that a small group of faculty would participate in a Summer 2017 pilot of Canvas. The purpose of this pilot was to explore one potential LMS product against Moodlerooms to determine if sufficient evidence existed to warrant entrance into an RFP process to formally evaluate competing LMS products with the possible outcome being the replacement of Moodlerooms by another LMS.

The pilot was supportive of entering into an RFP process.

When the Canvas pilot group met to discuss their experiences with using Canvas they were asked to summarize their experience on a 1 to 10 scale, with 1 being “strongly prefer Moodle over Canvas” and 10 being “strongly prefer Canvas over Moodle”.

The lowest response was a 6.5 that was later changed to a 7. The other responses were 7-8-8-8-9-9-11. Thus, all eight participating faculty supported a move to Canvas from Moodle, if those two LMS products were the only two products being evaluated.

There were several positives of Canvas noted (see partial list below). But there were also several negatives (see below). Instructional Media staff believe some, if not most, of the negatives are issues for which there is a Canvas solution or a work-around.

**Positives:**

* **Seemed more natural and intuitive**.
* High scores on LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability – e.g., integrating McGraw Hill tools, Turnitin, Norton tools). One faculty member used the word "Stunning" to describe how well Canvas integrated with various learning tools.
* Most liked the speed grader function
* Better work-arounds than Moodle for dealing with functions not native to Canvas or Moodle.
* Processes for communicating with students was a big plus - announcements, email, messaging all worked efficiently and well.
* Gradebook messaging to students.
* Works well on mobile devices.
* Real time feedback.
* Dashboard easy to navigate and follow.
* Publishing sections and whole course easier than Moodle.
* Faster working with changes - dates, times, assignment updates, etc.

**Negatives – many may require more training or a workaround:**

* Remote proctoring didn't work. Proctor Now product is using old technology and we will need to find a work-around or upgrade so proctoring will work with Canvas.
* Journaling and discussions did not work as well as hoped - groups needed to be set up but navigation from one group to the next was not good. This is another area for further research for a solution.
* Discussion navigation was not great - too many clicks to go back to original discussion; posts were constantly out of order.
* Video did not transfer from Moodle to Canvas
* In-course navigation was mentioned by many as a negative - not easy to get back to homepage or discussion questions
* Exporting the gradebook to CVS file changes the order of assignment/activities different than what is in the gradebook.  A slight annoyance
* Can't add extra points for all students in one setting - must go to each student to do this (Moodle has an Offset function to automatically add points to a total score for a particular graded item.