BLACKBOARD SAAS MIGRATION

East Central University is moving its Blackboard Learn environment from a self-hosted to a SaaS (Software as a Service) model. The idea here is that we will now access Blackboard in the “cloud”. The migration will be a full system migration. We want to retain all of our settings, brand customizations, and other important items.

With this option, our entire Blackboard Learn environment will be migrated in one set timeframe. This will take a chunk of time that we have set aside: the timeframe is going to be August 2-9, 2018. A Blackboard Project Manager will help plan for the migration this summer and then, after working in the test environment for one month, will lead our team through the fall migration (August 2-9). This will include migrating our data along with our building blocks and third party integrations.

After we complete the SaaS migration there will be a pilot phase for Blackboard Ultra. If you are interested in this pilot please click HERE to view a video. There is also a Welcome to Educator Preview page that contains more written information about the Ultra Experience. Faculty can also view a short video about becoming familiar with the Ultra Interface Experience. We encourage each of you to utilize the information and think about becoming part of the pilot!

BLACKBOARD TIP OF THE MONTH: RESET AN EXAM ATTEMPT

If a student needs to re-take an exam they have already taken, you will need to reset that student’s score to enable a new attempt. This is not the same as assigning a zero. The student attempt needs to be cleared or ignored. Go to Control Panel>Grade Center> Full Grade Center>View Grade Details>Clear Attempt>Click OK
Tip: By clicking VIEW COMPLETE HISTORY, you are able to see all the attempts by the student, as well as the instructor modifications of grading, clearing, or ignoring attempts. For a step-by-step guide with pictures, visit our CETL pages under “Blackboard How To Guides”.

ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Academic Technology Advisory Committee (Ad Hoc) has had a busy spring semester. Each subcommittee had multiple charges and many accomplishments. Some of the major highlights are outlined below.

Subcommittee 1: Learning Management System (Dr. Mark Jones, Dr. Shelli Sharber, Randall Stone, Wendy McKibben, Dave Sadongei, Jeremy Bennett, and Steve McBride)

- **Charge**: Explore LMS System
  - **Status**: ECU will move to a managed hosted software through Blackboard for efficiencies in on-line course delivery.
  - **Timeline**: August 2-9, full migration
- **Charge**: Create a name for the technology standing committee and a list of overall charges to be sent to faculty senate for adoption.
  - **Status**: The Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) was created along with specific charges. It was approved by the Teaching Technology Committee, the Provost as well as by Faculty Senate.
  - **Timeline**: A standing committee has been formed within Faculty Senate and will be functioning starting fall, 2018.

Subcommittee 2: Quality Online Teaching (Destiny Darbison, Dr. Shelli Sharber, Dr. Marc Klippenstine, Dr. Jason Prather, and Dr. Kate Lang)

- **Charge**: Develop communication plan to inform faculty about quality on-line instruction, the university’s goal of being a Quality Matter’s institution, and the support available to help them through the training and the course review process.
  - **Status**: Starting February 2018, CETL sends out a monthly newsletter as part of the communication plan designed to keep faculty informed of best practices in on-line instruction. CETL also created a Quality Matters FAQ area on the CETL page, developed a QM template to support faculty as they prepare for their QM course review, and are communicating earlier to faculty who need QM training and who need to put a course through a QM review. They are meeting individually with each faculty member to provide the support they need to be successful.
  - **Timeline**: Available during the spring, 2018 semester.
- **Charge**: Identify strategies for positive PR surrounding quality on-line course development.
  - **Status**: A bulletin board was purchased and installed outside of the CETL lab in ADM 214A. The bulletin board showcases all faculty who successfully completed a course review, QM training, or peer review training. Faculty were also recognized at the annual Employee Recognition Banquet who went through QM training, had a successful course review, had more than one successful course review and who completed peer review training.
  - **Timeline**: This will be on going but the items mentioned were completed in spring 2018.
Subcommittee 3: Teaching Technology in the Classroom (Jeremy Bennett, Dr. Janna Byrd, Patrick Baumann, Ben Matlock, Marcus Smith and Dr. Nick Jacob)

- **Charge:** Determine need for Technology Fee Increase.
  - **Status:** A technology fee increase has been submitted to the State Regents for approval.
  - **Timeline:** If approved this will start being collected in August 2018.

Subcommittee 4: Teaching Technology and Assessment (Wendy McKibben, Meredith Jones, Dr. Dwight Hite, Jeremy Bennett, Dave Sadongei and Steve McBride)

- **Charge:** Compare and contrast Xitracs and Blackboard Outcomes to determine which one can meet our assessment needs.
  - **Status:** Blackboard Outcomes has been selected to provide the assessment piece for General Education assessments, accreditation assessments, and program assessments (Final budget approval is pending)
  - **Timeline:** Fall 2018

To see the entire list of charges and statuses, please visit [http://ecok.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=42180936](http://ecok.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=42180936)

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SMARTTHINKING TUTORING

Have you noticed that a new link called “Smarthinking Online Tutoring” has appeared in your summer/fall Blackboard shells? This tool became available early on in the spring 2018 semester and was previously only available in the “Tools” area for students. It has now been added into the standard Blackboard template to make it easier for students to locate and use. Merrianne Biles, Tutoring Coordinator for the Academic Success Center, sent out an email in early February explaining this great new resource:

Dear Faculty,

East Central University is pleased to announce our new partnership with Smarthinking. With this service, students can access online tutoring across a wide range of subjects, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on demand or by appointment.

Each student has 2 hours of FREE service available to them. Visit [Smarthinking.com](http://Smarthinking.com) to learn more.

Click here to leave us feedback!