

Minutes of Meeting June 2nd, 2010

Approved June 30th, 2010

Final

Committee Attendees: Austin, Boyd, Grisham, Lew, Liggett (Chair), Loeher, Mamer, Pires, Smallberg, Snyder, Walker. Guests: Curtis Fornadley

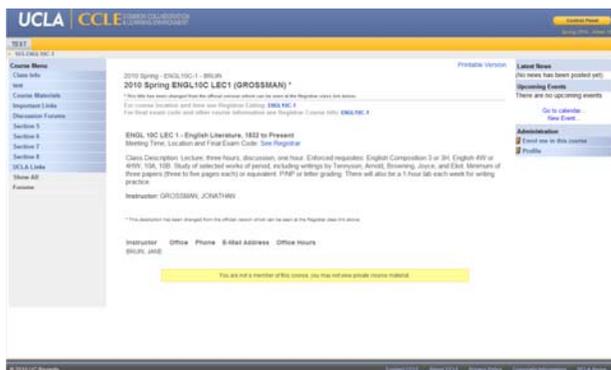
1. Quick topics

- a. Notes from May meeting approved with minor edits.
- b. Special thanks to the five members of the committee who will be rotating off at the end of this academic year: Robin Liggett, John Mamer, David Smallberg, James Schultz and Ray Walker.

2. Update on CCLE/Moodle, Curtis Fornadley (CCLE Coordinator)

The CCLE shared system currently houses about 1300 course sites per quarter. This represents about 30% of all courses. Collaboration sites only account for about 400 sites, however this may change as the ability to request these sites is going to be made more prominent on the CCLE main page. It is still unclear how Moodle will perform as a tool for collaboration sites. Moodle site terms like ‘course’ and ‘instructor’ have already been identified as awkward for project sites and will have to be addressed as collaboration needs grow.

The newly designed interface is scheduled to go into production on June 13th in time for Summer Session A courses. All Fall 2010 courses will be built automatically with the new format, however Summer courses will have to be switched to the new format by request. This new design builds on the programming done by Social Sciences Computing on their Moodle interface as well as an in-depth review by the User Interface & Information Architecture group (UIIA) which worked to make a prioritized list of changes to the interface. To achieve this, the UIIA group performed focus groups, surveys and one-on-one interviews to get feedback on the proposed changes.



The most noticeable improvement will be in the implementation of a 'control panel' making it easier to upload materials and rearrange topics. Overall the default look is a lot less busy than the unmodified Moodle look. It is expected that once the new interface is rolled out, the CCLE will do some follow-up analysis to see if users are satisfied with the implemented improvements, see what suggestions for new improvements there are, and to continue implementing other identified functions. For example, the ability for faculty to clone a site from a previous quarter has already been identified as desirable.

In addition to the benefits stemming from the Innovation and Development Program grant awarded to Social Sciences for the interface changes, there have been several other noteworthy projects:

- The integration with MyUCLA's Grade Book went into production during Spring quarter. Now students and counselors can see Moodle grades in MyUcla.
- A Video Playback Analysis tool will be in production by Winter 2011. This will be a gradable Moodle activity that will allow students to make time-based annotations of assigned videos.
- The UCLA Hypercities project is developing a web service to connect to Moodle and allow Hypercities activities to be gradable Moodle activities.

Moodle 2.0 is still at least a year off, but CCLE is eager for the link to external repositories that it promises. For example, rather than uploading a document to CCLE, you would link to an existing one in Google docs, or some other repository. Video repositories are also going to be possible.

Social Sciences will be merging to the same shared code base as the shared system. This was always the stated goal of the CCLE project. Not to necessarily have one single system, but to have one agreed upon code base. Moving forward as we try to encourage more campus units to opt-in (e.g. Anderson or Engineering) they have a choice to migrate to the shared system or to continue to run their own hardware but in either case to share the same code base. Why would a group give up an existing CMS and move to this? For homegrown systems they often lack sophisticated quiz tools. For both homegrown and commercial CMS users, they can benefit from shared integration efforts like the campus authentication, UCLA gradebook, Hypercities and to future shared innovations created via the Innovation and Development Program.

3. FCET Annual Review for ITPB

The committee reviewed the draft overview of topics prepared by Michelle Lew. The discussion focused primarily on the topic of online and blended learning. The committee felt a recommendation for the campus regarding blended learning could be made and Prof. Debra Pires agreed to work with Michelle Lew to draft something to include in the report to the ITPB in the Fall. The committee felt it should make it clear that UCLA should aim to not just duplicate the in class experience online but to really rethink course delivery.

With regard to E-sections/E-Lectures it was suggested that the Registrar could try allowing an increase in the room cap for courses that are impacted but webcasted. This still left the issue of needing funding for more TAs to hold in-person sections for these students. With respect to completely online/distance courses, the business school will be doing a pre-business school math course this summer and they agreed to share their experiences with the committee next year.