

April 16, 2014

To: Elson Floyd, President
Viji Murali, Vice President, Information Services
David Cillay, Vice President, Global Campus

From: Robby Rosenman, Chair, Faculty Senate
Craig Parks, Chair-Elect, Faculty Senate

Re: Replacement of Angel Learning Management System

During the Spring 2014 semester the Faculty Senate assembled an ad hoc committee to test and recommend a learning management system (LMS) to replace Angel, which is being phased out by its parent company, Blackboard. The committee has returned a recommendation to invest in Blackboard Learn. Committee members see it as highly flexible, containing a robust tool set, and providing the most extensive product support. They also believe it is the most likely of the currently available packages to survive into the future. As well, Blackboard Learn indicated to the committee that they would be willing to help offset the cost of running parallel systems, as we will need to keep Angel in operation while Blackboard Learn is in the process of being integrated into our instruction. We concur with this recommendation and encourage you to officially adopt Blackboard Learn as our new LMS.

An added benefit of Blackboard Learn is that it can be integrated with eXplorance, the software being considered as the replacement for Skylight. Presuming eXplorance is indeed adopted, integration of the two packages will offer instructors some options that have not previously existed.

We further recommend that the ad hoc committee, or some subset of it, be charged with developing an implementation plan to help faculty make the change from Angel to Blackboard Learn.

We are happy to answer any questions you might have.