

LMS Review Summary

May 18, 2023

Summary

Since 2009, Moodle has been the primary Learning Management System (LMS) for students and faculty at St. Norbert College. This past academic year, ITS partnered with Academic Affairs to conduct a review of our existing LMS to determine if it best meets today's needs as well as supports the future needs of the college. A working group consisting of faculty, staff and students developed a process for evaluation that was inclusive, transparent and informed by data including our Moodle usage over time, current LMS market share and a survey of what LMS peer, aspirant and WAICU schools are using. More information on the process can be found at: <https://lmsreview.knight.domains>

Working Group:

Faculty: Katie Garber, Eric High, Alexia Lopes, Kat O'Meara, Stephanie Shedrow

Staff: Darlene Blaney, Joe Dyal, Phyllis Eagle, Lauren Gaecke, Molly Lucareli, Krissy Lukens, John Miller, Kasia Mills, Nick Plank

Students: Helen Bui, Brian Coulter, Sam Haase, Luke Lessila

Objectives:

- Gather data to determine LMS feature/functionality priorities of faculty, staff and students
- Evaluate Moodle against these features and functionality
- Compare this with other LMS providers

Process:

Using a phased approach, we conducted research on various platforms and gathered data from faculty and students through surveys, listening sessions and individual interviews. The following were some of the items identified as the most important requirements to take into consideration:

- User friendly
- Easy Onboarding
- Easier Gradebook
- Better Mobile Platform
- Consistency in courses - platform, theme, and organization tools for student success

Multiple vendor demonstrations were held along with sandbox sessions for faculty to experiment with. A vendor evaluation matrix was used to complete our final assessment of the platforms and included ratings for tools/features/integrations, user experience, technical aspects and vendor information. Canvas outperformed Brightspace and Moodle in all of these areas.

Recommendation:

After conducting a thorough evaluation of Moodle, Brightspace and Canvas, the working group recommends that St. Norbert College adopt Canvas as our new LMS. St. Norbert College's strategic plan prioritizes *"providing a signature student experience that flourishes far into the future and is relevant and compelling."* It's critical that our LMS is situated to best meet these needs. We believe that with a platform like Canvas that is more intuitive, we will see an increased adoption among faculty, and a more consistent look and feel for students. Its clean design and logical layout contribute to a positive user experience, reducing the learning curve and enhancing the student experience. The added capabilities to measure student learning outcomes also makes it a great solution to carry SNC into the future.