

## October 24, 2024 | E-Learning Committee Meeting

**Attendees:** Bethany Emory, Chris Acres, Carolyn Porter, Peggy Vos, Amy Russ, Barbara Putman, Crystal Akers, Danell Moses, Jennifer Barfield, Melissa Hyatt, Patty Wall, Deven Neal, and others.

**Unable to Attend:** Dawn Harrison, Stephen Hesselbirg, Scott Cline

### Regular Business

#### Subcommittee Recaps

- Online Learning Readiness (Chris Akers):** The subcommittee noted that time management and basic computer literacy remain major barriers for online learners. Students often lack skills such as downloading or attaching files and locating saved work. The group discussed creating short tutorials for these basic tasks. Members emphasized the need for a required Moodle orientation for all online students. Chris will draft a survey to collect feedback on possible models. Sharon raised that students often don't know about available resources; the team discussed embedding clearer technology and support links in Moodle templates.
- Advanced Moodle Tools (Bethany Emory):** The subcommittee explored options to track required attendance more efficiently. A potential tool was found but is time-consuming to set up. Bethany will pilot the tool in one class section to compare results. A future integration with Intelliboard (available post-Moodle 4.1 upgrade) may offer improved automation. Plans are in place to offer Personalized Learning Designer (PLD) training this spring, with Intelliboard PD to follow after the upgrade.

### Moodle 4.1 Upgrade Overview

#### Overview of Changes

- Scheduled for Summer 2025, the upgrade will bring a new Boost theme for improved stability and design. This is a major visual and layout update but will not change most core Moodle functions. A test server is already available for exploration.

#### Key Improvements

- Customizable dashboard blocks, an improved "My Courses" view, and a new Block Drawer to display consistent campus-wide information. Faculty can now 'star' key courses or hide others for better organization.

#### Points of Caution

- Topic Zero (the top course section) will remain visible at all times, requiring faculty to simplify its contents. It may be best used for instructor contact info or a course banner

image. Course banners as a feature are no longer supported. Faculty will need to manually toggle Edit Mode on/off when modifying content.

### **\*\*Support & Training\*\***

- The e-Learning team will provide conversion support and host training sessions for faculty. A generic instructor test account will be shared to preview the upgrade. A “What’s New in Moodle 4.1” session will be proposed for Fall 2025 PD Day.

### **Committee Discussion & Feedback**

- Overall confidence in the upgrade is high. Faculty appreciate the navigation and dashboard improvements. Suggestions included forming a small promotional subcommittee to support faculty communication, providing more forum training, and developing guidance for effective use of Topic Zero and dashboard features.

### **Action Items**

- Draft survey on required Moodle orientation for online students — Chris Acres
- Pilot attendance tracking tool and compare data — Bethany Emory
- Plan PLD training session for Spring semester — E-Learning Committee
- Explore Intelliboard implementation after Moodle 4.1 upgrade — Bethany & IT Team
- Develop resource block templates and student tech links — Chris, Bethany, Sharon
- Create instructor test account for previewing upgraded Moodle — Chris Acres
- Plan faculty outreach/communication subcommittee — Bethany & Carolyn
- Schedule “What’s New in Moodle 4.1” session for Fall PD Day — Bethany & Chris

### **Next Meeting**

Tentatively scheduled for early Spring 2025 to review Moodle 4.1 testing feedback, results from pilot tool evaluations, and proposed orientation/training materials.