

ICDE's Evaluation Plan for the Canvas Learning Management System

In June 2015 the Online Education Initiative (OEI) officially announced the selection of Instructure Canvas as the Common Course Management System (CCMS) for the California Community College (CCC) Online Education Initiative. As part of the contract process, the OEI will provide 100% of the cost of services for Canvas to all colleges in the system through the 2018-2019 school year, if the college replaces their current systems with Canvas. The OEI "is optimistic that this level of support will continue."

MPC currently has a contract with Remote-Learner to host Moodle (MPC Online), the Learning Management System used by MPC, through June 30, 2017 with the option to renew and continue services for subsequent years.

MPC has the opportunity to decide to adopt Canvas or continue to use Moodle as its learning management system. As recommended by the Online Education Initiative and Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, MPC will rely on faculty expertise as well as student, support staff, administration, technology staff, and research to make a final decision.

On May 28, 2015, the MPC Academic Senate voted to task the Institutional Committee on Distance Education (ICDE) with the responsibility of conducting an evaluation of Canvas and bringing a recommendation back to the Senate.

At the September 18, 2015 meeting, ICDE created the following plan for conducting an evaluation of Canvas with the intent to deliver one of the following recommendations back to the Academic Senate by March 30, 2016:

Possible Recommendations:

- 1) Stay with Moodle and sign a new contract with Remote-Learner extending beyond June 30, 2017.
- 2) Transition from Moodle to Canvas by the time our current contract expires on June 30, 2017.
- 3) Extend our contract with Remote-Learner one additional year and continue the evaluation of options.

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Background

The California Community Colleges Online Education Initiative (OEI) aims to increase the number of California Community Colleges (CCC) students who obtain college associate degrees and transfer to four-year colleges each year by providing online courses and services within a course exchange between participating colleges. The OEI is an initiative of the CCC Chancellor's Office and was funded by the California legislature in 2013 in support of Governor Jerry Brown's Online Education Initiative proposal.

The Online Education Initiative funding has been used to purchase technology and resources to support the online course exchange as well as provide technology and services to support online learning at colleges throughout the system. To date, OEI has funded (a) the license and use of the Canvas LMS platform for all colleges through the 2018-2019 school year, (b) the license and use of the World Wide Whiteboard online tutoring platform for all colleges, and (c) the development of online student orientation/readiness modules. Further, the OEI funding is planned to provide 24/7 tier-one technical support and professional development for Canvas.

MPC uses Moodle (called "MPC Online") as its primary campus learning management system for online, hybrid, and web-enhanced face-to-face courses. The MPC Online system, its use on campus, and related faculty training are supported by a full-time Online Instructional Technology Specialist and a part-time Faculty Coordinator for Distance Education (40% release or 14 hours/week).

Evaluation Process

Members of ICDE have all agreed to serve as the Canvas LMS Evaluation work group. ICDE members have suggested that the Academic Senate appoint a representative on the group. The ICDE recognizes the importance of faculty expertise and student feedback and therefore may invite additional faculty and student representatives to participate the work group to guide the evaluation. The evaluation plan includes multiple other opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to receive information and provide feedback throughout the process.

ICDE Membership:

- Amber Kerchner - Counseling/Academic Advising
- Steven Albert - Liberal Arts (replacing Mary Johnson; pending Senate confirmation)
- Scott Moller - Career Technical Education
- Andrew Washburn - Sciences
- Catherine Webb - Library
- Ana Garcia-Garcia - Member At-large
- Francisco Tostado - Student Financial Services
- Michael Midkiff - Information Services

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- Rosaleen Ryan (resource) - Institutional Research
- Jaye Luke - Faculty Coordinator for Distance Education
- Steve Bruemmer - Online Instructional Technology Specialist
- Jon Knolle - Associate Dean of Instructional Technology & Development

OEI Pilot Faculty for Spring 2016

- Steven Albert - Economics
- Pam Van Zwaluwenburg - Political Science

The following timeline and milestones have been identified to help facilitate a recommendation.

Fall 2015

- ICDE will document the evaluation process and potential transition plan.
- ICDE will develop criteria for evaluating Canvas vs. Moodle.
- ICDE will create a Website to provide information about the evaluation process and space for faculty, staff, and students to leave general feedback.
- ICDE members will meet with the OEI and Canvas teams for initial discussion about evaluation and potential transition.
- MPC's DE Support Team, ICDE members and OEI pilot faculty will be trained on Canvas.
- MPC's OEI pilot courses will be migrated to Canvas in preparation for the spring semester.
- MPC's IT department will help facilitate integration of campus systems (SIS, single sign-on) with Canvas for the purpose of the OEI pilot.
- ICDE members will gather and prepare documents—including system overviews, feature comparisons, training materials, and other materials—for use during the evaluation process.
- ICDE will host an initial MPC Campus Forum during the week of [October 26-30 or November 2-6] to present the opportunity to the campus, provide a vendor-lead demonstration of Canvas, and gather feedback from participants. ICDE will request that the forum will be recorded.
- ICDE will solicit input from faculty and students through campus-wide surveys and focus groups.

Spring 2016

- ICDE will propose to offer a Flex day presentation on Canvas and an update regarding the evaluation and potential transition plan.
- MPC's OEI Pilot courses will be delivered in Canvas:
 - ECON 4 - Steven Albert
 - POLS 1 - Pam Van Zwaluwenburg

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- ICDE will facilitate limited trials of Canvas with a small group of MPC faculty and students. (NOTE: Canvas has said that it may cost us \$7500 to have them set up a space for us since we cannot include courses outside of the pilot in our OEI space).
- Feedback will be collected from pilot and trial faculty and students in the form of (a) online surveys and (b) focus groups.
- ICDE will use Canvas as a platform for one or more faculty training courses or Coffee Chat sessions to increase exposure to more faculty participants.
- ICDE *may* hold mini-Canvas training/Q&A sessions to provide additional hands-on time for faculty interested in learning about Canvas.
- ICDE will host a second and final MPC Campus Forum to present findings from evaluation and gather additional feedback from campus.
- ICDE identifies resources required to support a possible transition to Canvas.
- ICDE will evaluate the pros and cons of switching to Canvas vs. remaining with Moodle based on information provided throughout the evaluation process.
- ICDE makes recommendation to Academic Senate and appropriate shared governance groups by by **March 31, 2016**.
- College makes decision to transition or remain with Moodle by **May 29, 2016**.

Summer 2016

- If we decide to transition to Canvas then:
 - MPC will not elect to renew a contract for Moodle hosting with Remote-Learner
 - ICDE will initiate transition from Moodle/Remote-Learner to Canvas.
 - ICDE/MPC IT Department will finalize the integration of campus systems (SIS, single sign-on) with Canvas. Are there implications for single-sign-on?
 - ICDE will phase out the Moodle training series.
 - ICDE will design and begin implementation of a full Canvas/Online Teaching training series (possibly based on the @ONE Canvas training).
 - ICDE will begin to support the migration of MPC Online classes to Canvas.
- If we decide not to transition then:
 - We will plan to renew our Remote-Learner contract before it expires.
 - ICDE will continue to support Moodle.

Fall 2016

- If we decide to transition to Canvas then:
 - OEI will fund MPC's use of Canvas for the 2016-2017 school year.
 - Self-selected Instructors and classes will begin using Canvas.
 - Other instructors will continue to use Moodle and prepare for transition.
 - ICDE will continue to support the migration of MPC Online courses to Canvas.
 - ICDE will host a series of Canvas faculty training courses.
 - ICDE will develop a solution to archive Moodle courses
- If we decide not to transition then:
 - MPC will continue to use and support Moodle.

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Spring 2017

- If we decide to transition to Canvas then:
 - All MPC Online courses will be delivered through Canvas.
 - ICDE will continue to host a series of Canvas faculty training courses.
 - ICDE will archive Moodle courses in preparation for Remote-Learner server shut-down.
 - Remote-Learner contract will end June 30, 2017
- If we decide not to transition then:
 - MPC will continue to use and support Moodle.

Summer 2017

- If we decide to transition to Canvas then:
 - Remaining Moodle data will be transitioned and/or archived.
 - Moodle servers will be shut down.
- If we decide not to transition then:
 - The new Remote-learner contract will be negotiated for another year or an additional amount of time

Fall 2018 / Spring 2019

- If we decide to transition to Canvas then:
 - OEI will fund MPC's use of Canvas for the 2018-2019 school year.
- If we decide not to transition then:
 - The new Remote-learner contract will be in place.