Distance Learning Committee Recommendation
Presentation to Presidents' Council by Chair of Distance Learning Steve Beining

Executive Summary

This is the second presentation to the Council on the topic of the DLC's recommendation for the college to adopt Moodle as its learning management system. Included in the executive summary are the highlights of the implementation plan. Please see the plan details for more information.

- There will be no direct costs for instructional materials, computer software or hardware for faculty or students that result from course transfers from one platform to the other.

- It will take approx. 453 hours to transfer 380 courses and approx. 450 hours of conference time to support conversion activities for 225 full time and part time instructors. Additional time will be provided for any faculty wishing to attend the NOTE voluntary multi-level training program.

- The DL and Business Departments are moving forward with adding two project coordination interns to assist with the project. They will be paid from the DL budget.

- Based on the work schedules of staff involved in the project, there is enough time to get the work done: DL dept staff will need to devote 538 hours and can allocate over 705 hours to project activities and interns need to devote 360 hours and will have 570 hours.

- After a Sp10 pilot, Moodle Joule will be implemented by Su10. After reviewing the departmental budget, product development, and costs of the enterprise (integrated) version, the plan will move the college toward full integration of Moodle Joule with the Datatel portal (Datatel Connector) by Fa10 or Wi11 (depending upon pilot schedule and release dates)

- Moodle Joule would be hosted by vendor, Moodlerooms, and Datatel Connector would support the integration of MyClackamas portal and SIS with Moodle.

- The DL dept spends $59,000 per year to run basic Blackboard. It will spend $78,000 per year to run the integrated Moodle/Datatel system.

- The ITS department will be minimally impacted by the change to Moodle.

- Students can expect many enhancements from Moodle for learning and managing their courses. New opportunities for social learning and ease of starting online courses are primary benefits.

- No special support for infrastructure would be required to implement or use Moodle.

- A multi-level training program will be implemented that uses large group, small group, and one-on-one delivery, as well as mentoring, self-study, and use of electronic supports for the learning community.

Timeline of Events:
February – Contract with Moodlerooms for 2000 student pilot program
June – Moodle in production
June – Contract with Datatel for "Connector" pilot to be run during Su10
September – "Connector" in production (dependent upon pilot success)

Questions the Presidents' Council asked (Dec 8, 2009 meeting):

- What are the costs anticipated for FT and PT Faculty and their departments to transition their courses over?
- What specific training is anticipated for faculty and students? (How to best support students in a learning environment.)
- What is the actual dollar amount we would save by moving from Blackboard to Moodle?
- What is the specific IT support that will be needed? One time expenses or ongoing (to lend the best support to students)? What are the resource implications to our student – what does the added value get students?
- What is the actual cost to implement and run Moodle?
- Middleware costs?
- Would the integration process require special support to infrastructure?
- What are the staffing implications? (Does IT Services have the manpower and time to make the switch and support system needs?)
- Should we start with a basic Moodle learning version then as money becomes available move forward and spend on integration processes?
- How much will integration cost? How is integration funded?
- If we move beyond the basic package, what is the cost? Where will the dollars come from?