17 January 2011

Virtual Classroom- Elluminate Live

Present: Shira Blum, Joyce Bavlinka, Chris 1, Caroline Erb, Carlos Guevara, Helen Keier, Catherine Lewis, (Shawn M.), Sarah Morgano, Philip Pecorino, Debbie Rowe, Alex Rudshteyn, Joe Ugoretz, Barbara Walters, and Adam Wandt.

These notes are meeting notes, not official minutes. Please do not distribute outside of the CAT committee.

1. Business:
   a. Legal Issues.
      i. Most legal issues between CUNY legal, Sprint and Blackboard have been resolved. Sprint and Blackboard have been very flexible with CUNY R/D process.
      ii. Faculty involved in an R/D trial can be involved in the procurement process of requested products. However, faculty should abstain from any votes relating to the procurement of that technology.
   b. Projects Underway.
      i. John Jay College is currently running three R/D trials for the Spring 2011 semester: (1) Sprint Evo and Blackboard Mobile Learn- Determining the advantages of smart phone technologies paired with Blackboard Mobile Learn.
         (2) Sprint Galaxy Tablet- Used in an introduction to drawing course to familiarize students with alternative drawing techniques, knowledge and use of WIFI hotspots and adaptability to Blackboard Mobile Learn.
         (3) Project Gnosis- An online ticketing system acquired thru ZenDesk. Provides an alternative communication method between students and instructors. Encourages students to become self-reliant when seeking answers to general knowledge questions about the courses in which they are participating.
ii. VOCAT System is currently being used at Baruch College. The system provides students a method to deliver speeches online. Once speeches are delivered, students receive feedback and an evaluation/grade of their presentation thru the use of an established rubric.

c. Future R/D Projects.

i. The potential use of Blackboard Course sites was discussed and has been considered as a potential R/D trial for the Fall Semester 2011. A more in depth proclamation about its potential use/benefit will need to be further explored.

d. The Promotion of Universal Access.

i. Phil Pecorino and Jill Roter are working on amending the rubric considering compliance issues for students with disabilities.

ii. So far, the rubrics are set for determining accessibility and compliance. Further action is needed to determine how, the results of the rubric produces a bottom-line recommendation. The latter should be worked out in the next MONTH.

iii. A recommendation was made to post some sort of protocol on the CUNY Commons website. This protocol is aimed at providing researchers guidance when dealing with technology use and students with disabilities.

e. Video Conferencing Use in Courses.

i. Another sub-group of CAT is currently looking into product licensing opportunities for faculty and students CUNY-wide.

ii. Products being considered are: Adobe Connect and Blackboard Collaborate.

f. CUNY Commons Website.

i. Phil Pecorino recommended posting a list of projects currently underway, along with the respective researcher(s) assigned to those projects.

ii. It was noted that this “list“ is already under development and should become available in the near future.

iii. A criterion for R/D Project Evaluations, to be posted on CUNY Commons, was noted: 1) Brief Narrative about the research conducted; 2) Ratings based on the Rubric; and 3) A Special Note considering compliance and accessibility.

iv. The development of a Commons Wiki site was suggested. Shira Blum, Chris 1, Joe Ugoretz, Carlos Guevara and Sarah Morgano have volunteered their services.
A recording of this meeting is available to members of the R&D group at:


The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 10AM via the virtual Elluminate room.

Notes recorded by Joshua C. Rowell, MPA

Submitted by Adam S. Wandt