



Academic Liaison Meeting

02/23/2022 at 8:30 AM CT

Announcements and Updates from OAI

- Email aihelp@tamu.edu for all inquiries or through the Academic Liaisons Teams channel.

Google Drive

- The Google Drive LTI had an issue last week that caused a break in the links associated with the older LTI for both faculty and students. [Workarounds](#) are:
 - 1. Change the permission settings to be “Anyone with the Link” and re-add content to Canvas
 - 2. Use the Google Drive LTI 1.3
- We are working with the Canvas admins to generate a usage report to determine how many faculty are using the previous LTI to send targeted communication to them about transitioning to the new tool.

Digital Desk

- The LMS Implementation Teams have worked with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Evaluation to improve the Digital Desk integration with Canvas. Previously, grades were sent as a Notes column. Now, they will be sent as an Assignment.

Reset Course Feature

- Feature was removed as it was determined to be the root cause for an issue with ORCA in merging courses and processing enrollments.
 - Using this feature creates a new Course ID, which is the current ID that ORCA uses to link the SIS and Canvas. We have added this request to the feature development for ORCA.



TAMU Template

- The LMS Executive Committee has approved a single template to be applied to every provisioned course at TAMU.
 - This guiding principle is the foundation for the LMS Implementation Teams policies for how requests are handled. Since a single template is approved, the LMS Implementation teams have created a workflow that requires the template to be applied to every course.
 - Exceptions to this policy include resetting a course where an error was made in importing content. In this case, we will re-apply the template to fall in line with the guiding principle.
 - This template has been tested, verified, and approved by the LMS Implementation teams so that it can be supported by the Office for Academic Innovation. We are unable to centrally support templates created externally from our office.
 - We have documented all the feedback generated from this group and will escalate it to the LMS Implementation Teams for consideration but cannot guarantee a timeline.
- This guiding principle is slated to be added to our Governance page for reference.

Communities in Canvas

- Review of [Communities in Canvas](#)
- Communities' emails
 - We have submitted feedback we have received on this to the ORCA team for us to begin testing. This email workflow will likely change.
 - Proposed change:
 - Community Pending Approval -> Automatically sent to requestor and person responsible
 - Community Status -> status sent in a ticket from aihelp



- Community is Ready -> automatically sent to request and person responsible
- Enrolling ALs to all communities
 - Currently: All ALs are enrolled as Leaders in every community
 - Reason: since communities are on their own subaccount, this process was created to allow for the AL to be able to view them since they are not visible from -admin accounts.

Action Items

- Submit third-party tool requests for AY 2022 – 2023 by March 1st, 2022 at 5 PM.

Questions for LMS Implementation Teams

- QM or other metrics for measuring quality in courses
- Remote courses and proctoring tools

Upcoming Meetings – March 9, 2022 at 8:30 AM CT

Discuss the New Quizzes timeline and share additional resources.

Discussion

TAMU Template

Mays: I think a reasonable solution is that over time we develop a set of templates. Then, ORCA could be modified to function similar to how eCampus Tools used to function by allowing a faculty member (or academic liaison) to pick an appropriate starting place for their course each semester.

Bush School: I agree! For example, UG links are confusing in a graduate course. We need to be able to have a selection of approved templates.

Nursing: I don't know too many ALs that have an issue with the template. The problem is the process of duplicate application and clean up. And the template changing only minimally each term. It creates such inefficiency and unnecessary cleanup for the ALs or IOR. We like the template, do not like the process.

Medicine: Some units are smaller in size, and this is a large workload for them.



Mays: The last two semesters I rebuilt my course from scratch instead of trying to import content from a previous semester for this reason that Kris and Lisa are talking about. I open the old course in a browser on one screen and copy the content from a page to a page in the new course in a browser on the other screen. This is not efficient use of anyone's time.

Al: Template is approved through 2023 due to MGT report. Want to have vetted all appropriate resources and contacted other peer institutions.

Mays: Some of the people making the decisions (Executive Committee) are not the ones using the template. Express frustration from the ALs that decisions that look good for consistency, are causing a lot of work for extra individuals.

Nursing: The takeaway for me is we don't care about wasting time for IORs or ALs to make minimal changes to an already good template. We are not requiring the use of the template; we are requiring a fresh application/duplicate of an already good Template. We don't have decision making ability as ALs.

Al: Reset course feature has been disabled due to issues causing with ORCA.

Mays: One other strategy that I adopted this semester is to stop using the icons, dividing lines, other stylistic graphics that mostly provide visual cues on pages. This makes it easier to bring content from one course to another course.

Bush School: It would be great if there was a process to not apply the template in special use cases.

Public Health: It would be useful to meet with all colleges to look at the templates that each college needs, so you can take our input and suggestions, from the people that actually work on the courses

Course Visibility

Liberal Arts: After course end date, students can still see content. Is there a way to change this, or have instructor decide if it's visible?

Answer: It's a limitation of Canvas. Once you publish a course, you can't unpublish it. We're working on a course retention policy which would impact the viewing of content after the course end date.



Mays: One option to allow students to have continued access is through the incomplete grade resolution process.

Dentistry: One way would be to unpublish any content you don't want students to see.

Separate, specific email to faculty about course visibility.

Answer: [https://lms.tamu.edu/News/Start-of-the-Semester-Reminders-\(1\)](https://lms.tamu.edu/News/Start-of-the-Semester-Reminders-(1))

<https://lms.tamu.edu/LMS/media/Assets/pdf/Course-Visibility-Canvas-View.pdf>

Mays: It is also stated on the "Course Availability" page on the LMS website (<https://lms.tamu.edu/course-management#CourseAvailability>).

Communities

Nursing: Would like to edit start and end dates in communities.

Education: Since ALs are enrolled as a Leader, communities show up on my dashboard, all in one folder, would like to be able to search for Communities.

ANSWER: One solution is a manually created course. Another solution is for an AL to remove another AL. Have a spreadsheet that would cross check auto-enrollments.

Science: Question on pilot communities.... I am unable to add or remove any enrollments from my original pilot community. It is not on my Community Management page.

Nursing: Low Priority - One other suggestion for communities since they are all in a shared subaccount, is we do one that uses both Medicine and Nursing, but only Medicine sees the community, so she must manage Nursing student enrollments for me. It is not a huge number so not a big deal, but if anyone else shares resources across colleges it would be great if ALs could share this responsibility.

Mays: It seems our role in communities is similar to roles in courses.

ANSWER: We have communities in separate sub account for academic vs non-academic credit. If we don't add you to communities, you won't have access to it at all since no access to sub-account. Can't add communities to your admin account.

Mays: All the communities are in a single sub-account? (Yes.) Can't we split communities into different sub-accounts?



ANSWER: Correct. Have been looking at that piece of sub-account within college sub-account. Don't have any guidance currently as been put on hold due to MGT report. Make sure we're drawing the line between academic and non-academic courses.

Mays: Would alleviate a lot of complexity. Changing topics to enrollment management. Can we get ORCA fixed so can do our own enrollment? Any rationale for why some can but some can't?

ANSWER: Going to get it tested. No reason that makes sense. Some got added during pilot phase but weren't working across the board.

Science: Why are some pilot communities in ORCA and some aren't?

ANSWER: Working with development team. Prior to pilot, there were "orgs".

Mays: would like email with specific community and status update to communicate back with constituents. Similarly, it would be nice for email to be sent once community is populated and ready.

ANSWER: Working with developers to include some of that text in the email message itself. ORCA was set up a little differently. Email is supposed to route to our service desk for us to go do it. Currently untangling some of this. Working towards a clear workflow.

Mays: As an FYI to other ALs, I implemented a naming convention for the communities from Mays. I force all communities to use my naming conventions. The basis of my convention is to use the Department four letter code or a four-letter code for a program to identify which unit "owns" the community. This makes them sort by four-digit code in my "All courses" list.

Galveston: Have communities been changed or updated? Recently community was approved but now it's saying it's going to be removed. It was for an Advising Community, but I was told Advising can't be a community.

ANSWER: Working on typology definitions. Advising Communities don't fit in a typology that we have approved. Expressly told not to use advising for communities, doesn't fit into academic augmentation. Advising for programming and course programming are not academic augment. We currently have four that have already been approved but are changing how communities are approved in our office. Changed how we internally approve and deny communities to make sure communication is consistent.



Galveston: Wanted to remain FERPA compliant and have the information retained in the community.

ANSWER: Other tools that are FERPA compliant and set up for chat. Depends on your use case. Most advisors are staff, not set up for staff to use.

Mays: Is there any conversation at the university level about moving New Student Conferences to Canvas Communities like we did with eCampus Communities during COVID?

ANSWER: We have done New Student Conferences in the past in a community for two of their sessions, but I have not heard anything from those groups as they have been wanting to engage face-to-face

Action Items for Academic Innovation

- Express frustration from the ALs to LMS Executive Committee that decisions that look good for consistency are causing a lot of work for individuals.
- Separate, specific email to faculty about course visibility.