

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD
ACADEMIC SENATE

Learning Management System Recommendation

RES 192011

AAC, AS&SS, BPC

- RESOLVED:** that the Academic Senate recommends the adoption of Canvas as the Learning Management System for California State University, Bakersfield, with appropriate support and resources to address the remaining faculty concerns, and be it further
- RESOLVED:** that a Canvas transition team composed of faculty members, students, Faculty Teaching Learning Center (FTLC) staff, and ITS staff should be established, charged with facilitating the smooth transition to Canvas for faculty and students.
- RATIONALE:** The selection of a Learning Management System (LMS) is an academic decision and should occur through normal processes of shared governance. Detailed information about the LMS evaluation process and related reports and documents are posted at <https://its.csub.edu/lmseval>. The contract with the campus's current LMS, Blackboard (Bb), expires on June 30, 2021, and a decision must be made to either extend the Bb contract or select a new LMS. In the 2018-19 academic year, a process was begun to evaluate whether the campus should maintain Bb or consider an alternative LMS. Canvas was selected as a possible replacement for Bb, and a pilot program (over two semesters and two intersessions) was conducted starting in the Winter 2019 intersession through the Fall 2019 semester. Based on data collected through the pilot program (<https://its.csub.edu/lmseval#learn>), 159 faculty members took part, and 83 responded to the survey. Of this number, 90% of faculty who completed the survey would choose Canvas over Bb as the campus LMS, while 10% would choose Bb over Canvas. Similarly, a majority of students who took part in the pilot program, 6625 total students and 999 respondents, 70% reported they would choose Canvas over Bb as the campus LMS, while 30% would choose Bb over Canvas. Additionally, a majority (73%) of the faculty who participated in the Spring 2020 Canvas Open Forum support the transition to Canvas.

A Learning Management System is a tool that should aid in student success, and student success is a driving component of the CSU Graduation Initiative 2025 as well as CSUB's strategic plan. To that end, the Associated Students Inc (ASI), in Fall 2019, confirmed their support (SB 101) to adopt Canvas as the campus LMS. The students and faculty referred to an important feature, a mobile app, for interacting with the LMS, increasing access and encouraging more involvement with course material, this feature does not exist with Bb. Further, with a large population of transfer students that enroll at CSUB from a California Community College (CCC), and the majority of campuses in the CCC system adopting Canvas, having Canvas as CSUB's LMS creates familiarity and removes the hurdle for these students having to learn a new LMS. There is concern that the Bb LMS may not be a viable platform in the long-term. The majority of CCC and institutions in the University of California system, as well as nine California State University institutions, have adopted Canvas, moving away from Bb and other LMSs.

However, several areas of concern remain, as expressed in the Spring 2020 Canvas Open Forum and in senate subcommittee discussions about the adoption of Canvas. The major concerns include support staff, faculty training resources, LTI and API for third party solutions (e.g., Excel, Examity, etc.), as well as the time involved in transitioning all courses from Bb to Canvas. Many features, particularly features related to the grade book, do not automatically transition from Bb to Canvas. Significant time, training, and support will be required to move all courses to Canvas. Additionally, academic year faculty are not under contract in the Summer and Winter terms, so all training and transition work will need to occur in Fall and Spring semesters. It is highly likely that it will not be feasible to successfully move all courses by Spring 2021, and an extended transition plan through Fall 2021 will be needed to properly move all courses to Canvas. Therefore, full access to Bb must be maintained through to the end of the Fall 2021 term.

Another concern is the retention of submitted student work from Bb for purposes of student grievances, assessment, and specialty accreditation. It is unclear if the archive of courses after the expiration of the Bb license will contain submitted student work and the corresponding grading notes. This data is necessary to address student grievances, to complete assessment, and to provide data for some specialty accreditation entities. Lastly, several faculty members involved in the Canvas pilot have also raised academic integrity concerns about the default quiz module, as well as other concerns about specific features needed to support courses in their disciplines. An add-on or proctoring solution that adequately addresses the academic integrity concerns must be provided. Costs for this solution and

for other third party solutions necessary to support features required by specific disciplines must be supported by the campus to have a successful transition to Canvas.

Distribution List:

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Approved by the Academic Senate April 2, 2020

Sent to the President April 20, 2020

Approved by the President April 22, 2020