

Minutes of the CAS Online Faculty Discussion Group Meeting
October 22, 2008
12:00 pm

Attendees:

Katie Barwick-Snell, Patrice Brink, Karen Cozart, Jackie Farley, Kamala Jolly Stewart,
Beth McCoy, Dan Snell

Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves.

Announcements

The December 10 meeting will feature an attorney from the legal department to talk with the group about copyright issues.

Michelle Davis from IT is interested in hearing from you with problems or concerns about D2L. [Email](#) or call her at 325-7840.

You should now be able to see your Spring 2009 course shells on D2L. If you are copying a course from the older version of D2L (anything older than version 8.3 which went online in May 2008) and you previously copied documents from Word and pasted them into the HTML editor in D2L, they will not copy correctly into the new shells. You should recopy them from Word, then paste into D2L using the "Paste from Word" button which is inside the HTML editor on the Advanced Tab. If you have difficulty with this, [email](#) or call Beth McCoy at 325-0862.

Agenda

Beth McCoy presented on some of the new features and changes in D2L version 8.3. Here is the official list, which can also be found within D2L in the "Instructor Help" section:

Here is a list of some of the new features and changes in v 8.3!

Supported Browsers

Windows:

- Internet Explorer 6.0 (recommended)
- Internet Explorer 7.0
- Firefox 2.0

MAC OSX (up to 10.4)

- Firefox 2.0 (recommended)
- Safari 1.3
- Safari 2.0

Accessibility

D2L now includes improvements to make functionality more accessible to users with diverse use and learning needs in alignment with section 508 ordinances and W3C standards.

My Home Page

In the *My Courses* widget of the My Home page, you will now see a note if the course has a future start date or past end date. This indicates that student access to the course is not available yet or has ended. Click on the pencil icon to change the start/end dates.

- **KNOWN ISSUE:** Currently if you click on the minus sign beside a Department or Semester heading to collapse the grouping, the system will not remember. Each time you return to the page, the groupings will all be open again. This should be resolved in an upcoming maintenance release.

Course Home Page

News

- Updated icons
- You can now delete a news item from the course home page.
- New Editor:
 - No longer a pop-up
 - Ability to click and drag resizing for the editing field
 - Spell checking now displays errors inline rather than a pop-up
 - **Change: No longer able to edit HTML code in the News tool** - if you used javascript or some other specialized code in News it is recommended that you make Widgets instead and use those.

Events/Schedule

- The schedule tool can now integrate with Quizzes, Discussions, Content, & Surveys.
- The interface provides customizable display options giving users more control over what they see.
- Users can now create and edit repeating events.

Content

- Opens to *Manage Content* view for instructors
- Student view opens to *View Content*.
- Administration menu is moved to the upper left corner and is not visible to students.
- All users can now expand and collapse modules and sub-modules in the content map.
- You may create a custom Content Home page and set that page to be what the students see upon entering the content area. This action is performed in the *Settings* area of the Content administration menu.
- You can now track who has accessed a particular document and for how long. The information can be viewed by topic and/or user in the Reports area or by user in the User Progress tool.

Discussions

- Discussion topics can be assessed and linked to the grades tool. Instructors can specify how topic scores are calculated and can control when scores are released to the grades tool and displayed to students.
- Participants can rate peer messages on a scale from one to five stars, view average message ratings, and use average ratings to sort and filter messages. Instructors can see aggregate ratings for forums, topics and users.
- Instructors can lock discussion forums and topics, allowing participants to continue to access a topic while preventing them from posting new messages or modifying existing ones. Topics and forums can be locked manually or based on a date range.
- Instructors can move and copy messages between topics.

Dropbox

- Instructors can create dropbox folders for groups, allowing them to view files submitted by group members in a single location and evaluate the group as a whole using a grade item.
- Students can now submit files directly from their personal locker or a group locker.
- Instructors can preview how a folder looks from a student's perspective, submit a file, assess the preview submission, and view feedback.
- Instructors can edit multiple dropbox folders and categories simultaneously.

Grades

- New grade book wizard to walk you step-by-step in setting up the gradebook.
- Spreadsheet style interface allows instructors to enter grades for all students and all grade items from a single page using only the keyboard, making it much faster to record grades.

- Grade items can now be created in an Excel spreadsheet and imported into the grade book without having to first create the columns in D2L.
- Instructors can now email students directly from the grade book.
- Student view has been redesigned to resemble a report card, making it easier for students to interpret their results.
- Instructors have additional options to determine what students see when viewing their grades.

Groups Tool

- Groups Tool is managed from the Edit Course page or by adding the Groups icon to the course navigation bar.
- Instructors can now create shared lockers, dropbox folders, and discussion topics for groups. Workspace creation is integrated into the group setup from a single location
- When a group is configured for automatic enrollment, instructors have the option to automatically enroll new participants who join the course after the group is created.

Roster

- Instructors may change a user's role from the roster or from the registration area.
- Instructors may now remove TAs or other instructors from the roster.
 - **NOTE:** If the other instructor was originally assigned to the course through CICS as the official instructor of record, D2L administrators will need to remove the instructor from the course.
- You can now print a list of the users from the roster.
- Select multiple users to send an email from the roster area.

Edit Course/Course Admin Tools

- A new interface provides access to a wider range of course management tools within a course offering.
- The Course Offering Information page includes improved controls for changing course colors.
- You can now set a tool (such as Content or News or a URL) as the course homepage.
- The new homepages interface offers a more visual way of building and changing homepages.
- You can share homepages with other courses.
- The new widget interface offers a more visual way of building and changing widgets.

Next Meeting

The next CAS Online Discussion Group meeting will be held Wednesday, December 10, at 12:00 noon on the Norman campus in Ellison Hall 220, and via video-conferencing in Tulsa, room 3J23.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.