In our August newsletter we shared a tutorial on Bb’s automatic column creation based on points assigned to student activities (discussions, journals, blogs, assignments, assessments, etc.). You can also create columns manually if you like. In this issue, we remind you that you can submit midterm and final letter grades to S.A.I.L. directly from Bb’s Grade Center:

- Full Grade Center
- Click green Manage button
- Select Grade Submission to SIS

You can scan the QR code to access the full tutorial or go to https://iol.tamucc.edu/.

Data of Grade Center Use per College extracted from Blackboard Analytics for Learn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Bb courses (not sections, labs, field studies, practicums, internships)</th>
<th>Grade Center Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COB</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>95 (82.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COEHD</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>103 (66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLA</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>300 (67%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONHS</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>79 (97.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSE</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>221 (55%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You, Your Students, and Bb Grade Center Videos on ODEL TYouTube Channel

- Watch Video on tamuccode YouTube channel
- Watch Video on tamuccode YouTube channel

Instructors, remind students where to look for feedback! Refer them to My Grades link in the main menu!
**End of Semester Checklist**

As the semester comes to an end, we would like to remind you of the end-of-semester processes for managing Bb courses.

1. **Grade submission tool in the Bb Grade Center** will transfer Final (and Midterm) grades directly to Banner during the date and time ranges stated in the Academic Calendar. Use the Submit Grades Using Bb tutorial (see page 1).

2. **Extending Bb Course availability to students:** Your Bb course will remain available to students 17 days after the last day of class listed in SAIL. You can extend the course availability to individual students if needed.

3. **Preparing your Bb course for the next semester:** You can re-use the content of your current Bb course for another semester - follow the Course Copy tutorial available on https://iol.tamucc.edu/

4. **IT Help desk hours of operation** and contact information are available at http://it.tamucc.edu/ and inside each Blackboard course > Start Here link.

**Blackboard Tool Makes Book Adoption Easier**

Faculty can now adopt course materials conveniently from their Bb Learn course. The tool links directly to a form that is submitted to the university bookstore, Barnes & Noble. The following outlines the process for using the tool.

1. In a content area in Bb, select **Tools** from the green menu and select either **Purchase Course Materials** or **Research Course Materials**.

2. Complete the form by providing a name in the box (i.e. course name or ID) and a description of the materials.

3. Click the submit button at the bottom of the page.

4. You will be redirected to Barnes & Noble College Faculty Enlight.

5. You will be prompted to create an account after which you can access the course materials available for adoption.

**Removal of 2015 Terms courses from Blackboard**

In accordance with records retention requirements, IT will delete Blackboard courses that were delivered in 2015. The deletion will take place January, 2018. Instructors who wish to retain their content can copy courses into their development shells or archive (zip) their courses. A tutorial for coping and archiving a course is available here: https://iol.tamucc.edu/assets/documents/Backing-up%20course%20content.pdf. For assistance contact the IT Help Desk at 825-2692.

**Reports on Students’ Activities in Your Course**

Four dynamic reports describing phenomena in your class will soon be available in Course Management -> Evaluations -> Course Analytics:

1. **Course at a Glance:** This report provides summary information about an individual course, and comparative information against a selected group of other courses. This report can help analyze how a course is designed, how the course compares to other course sections in the same department, and how the students are using the course.

2. **Activity and Grade Scatter Plot:** This report will create a scatterplot comparing the grade earned in a course with student interactions in the given course. It can help analyze how different student interactions do or don’t relate to the grades.

3. **Activity Matrix:** This report displays grade center and activity data on a relative basis for students enrolled in a learn course. The data is displayed for each student to aggregate, and over time, for the respective term. This report can help analyze activity and grade patterns in a course, and help find students with different usage and performance profiles.

4. **Course Submission Summary:** This report identifies the last time students submitted to the course and the type of submission. It is used to identify students who are not engaged in their courses by displaying trends and numbers of submissions compared to the average across all students in that course.
Faculty Workshop Series
Blackboard GRADE CENTER

Project GRAD will host a faculty interactive workshop with our own ODELT: Engaging students in online learning using Blackboard GRADE CENTER.

Friday, November 17th
9:00am - 12:00pm
UC Lone Star Room 142 AB

Click the link or scan QR code to register
Please RSVP by November 13, 2017

For questions please contact Jocelyn.Gutierrez@tamucc.edu

*Light refreshments will be provided, as well as a $150.00 stipend for eligible faculty.

Faculty Series Workshop Agenda

8:30 Registration and Coffee
9:00 Welcoming Remarks
Dr. Lauren Cifuentes
9:05-9:35 Student Panel
9:35-9:40 Break
9:40-10:10 Faculty Panel:
Dr. Frank Spaniol
Dr. Karen Loveland
Dr. Eric Luttrell
Dr. Heather DeGrande
Dr. Blair Sterba-Boatwright
10:10 -10:25 Break
10:25-12:00 Bb Tools and Grade Center
Integration Workshop
ACT NOW! Contact us for a 20 minute overview of Blackboard’s PORTFOLIO tool to enable your students to:

- Organize collection of artifacts to tell a story
- Document education and training
- Provide samples of work
- Share information about skills & achievements

Phone: 361-825-2122
E-Mail: odelt@tamucc.edu
Faculty Attitudes Toward Online Learning

“Two studies have explored the difference in attitude toward online learning between faculty who were experienced or new to online teaching. Jaschik and Lederman (2016) found that faculty who had taught more online courses were more likely to believe online courses were as effective as face-to-face courses and were more likely to disagree that they were easier to teach. Faculty with more experience in online teaching were also more likely to believe that faculty could know their students well as opposed to those with less or no experience, which highlighted the need for development opportunities for forming online communities and reducing transactional distance.” (p. 448)


The Office of Distance Education and Learning Technologies (ODELT) celebrated National Distance Learning Week by hosting events for both students and faculty. Students participated in the E-Mazing Race, a contest in which students go through a series of activities in Blackboard to learn more about finding feedback from their instructors. Free webinars were provided by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA). The annual Outstanding Online Educator awards ceremony and reception were held to honor faculty from four colleges: Dr. Kimberly Reinhardt, College of Education; Dr. Karen Loveland, College of Business; Dr. Susan Garza, College of Liberal Arts; and Dr. David Bridges, College of Science and Engineering. National Distance Learning Week is celebrated the first week of November every year.

IT to Launch New Website

The Division of Information Technology will be introducing their revamped website, it.tamucc.edu, on November 15. The url address for the IT home page will remain the same but all other links will have new urls. If you have links to any pages on the IT website, these links will need to be updated. If you have any questions or comments on the new site please contact the IT Help Desk at x2692 or itrequests@tamucc.edu.

Going Online When Disaster Strikes

None of us will forget the effects of Harvey on our community. So many responded positively by setting to work cleaning up, reassuring students in online course shells, and helping others get back on track. Every member of our Islander community has Harvey stories to tell. Two such stories featuring our own Ed Evans, Chief Information Officer, were recently published in Bb’s Global Openness Initiative and in Inside Higher Ed:

How Education Can Continue When Nature Strikes [Link]

Going Online When Disaster Strikes [Link]

MAC User Tip

Are you having trouble seeing your grade center columns in Blackboard on your MAC? Click on the Apple symbol in the top left corner of your desktop and then click “System Preferences”. Select “General” and then under “Show scroll bars” click “Always”. When you refresh your browser, all of your grade center columns should now be visible!

IT Fun Fact

From October 15 to October 20 the university has received 13,000 telephone calls. Monday was the busiest with 3460 calls and Sunday the slowest with 194.

From Joshua Gonzales, Director of Infrastructure and Research Computing