DeAnza College Moodle and Distance Education Discussion

July 14, 2009, 1:30 p.m., DeAnza Milagro Room

Attending: April Chen, Linda Elvin, Kevin Metcalf, Chien Shih, Deb Treacy, Jerrick Woo

Primary objective is to the discuss integration requirements for DeAnza's Distance Education program with a focus on the Moodle integration. Areas of focus:

- Data requirements for the Moodle/Banner integration
- Interface design
- Single Sign On (SSO) via Luminis

A Generic Framework Connector (GCF) onsite training is being coordinated, which will allow greater flexibility in coupling FHDA enterprise applications with Luminis. It is recommended Kevin attend this training.

The goal of the initial integration with Banner is to have a 'loosely' coupled design providing the same data integration requirements as being provided by IA Plus. This will be labeled as our Phase I goal. Current functionality entails (and will be replicated in the new environment):

- Courses are currently built in ECMS.
- Long titles and description are extracted from IA Plus and imported into Moodle.
- On the day before the onset of the quarter, applicable student registration data is extracted and pulled into Moodle. Currently ~ 13,000 students participate in the program.
- Extracts and imports occur on a daily basis and are not real time.

Additional functionality to be incorporated:

- The use of targeted announcements within Luminis to communicate and provide channels to access the Moodle application.
- Review increasing the frequency of the extracts from Banner especially during the add/drop period for the quarter.

However, we must keep in mind our future requirements providing a more robust experience for our students. A few items would include:

- SSO functionality. It is not feasible to introduce this into the integration framework during Phase I since faculty must have the ability to immediately revoke student access. We must carefully strategize how we can incorporate SSO and not lose this critical functionality.

- Ability for a student to be redirected to Self-Service Banner (SSB) to register for a course after reviewing the ECMS description of the course. (The link would be embedded within the ECMS content preventing a cumbersome navigation/registration experience.)
- Real-time integration with the Banner application allowing the information to be pushed into Moodle when it changes.

Initial implementation timeline for going live in support the Summer quarter requirements:

- Student registration is targeted for April 2010 go-live for Summer quarter
- Faculty logs into Moodle two weeks before the onset of the quarter to begin manipulation of or enhancing their course content
- First registration detail load into Moodle must be available the day before classes (load into Moodle occurs shortly after midnight the first day of classes—currently this is an unattended process and must be so in the new model)
- Summer session commences end of June 2010

A development environment does exist that can be used for analyzing/designing/developing/deploying the prototype.

Suggestions and potential issues were discussed:

- Organizational and operational support. We have ~ 13,000 students participating in the Distance Learning program. The program embraces an "any time, anywhere" concept; both part-time faculty and students are not constrained by geographic location to participate. The "help" support structure must accommodate this. (Required review—incorporating robust help mechanism via Luminis.)
- Need to understand the use of additional attributes when accommodating the schedule requirements. It is requested a demo of this functionality is facilitated ensuring its potential is fully understood.
- The interface must be designed to ensure maximum efficiency and the ability to obtain timely registration information (real time versus periodic, e.g. daily, several times a day).
- The ability to revoke a student's access must be instantaneous (SSO to other applications and how this can be accommodated must be critiqued).
- The ability to restrict production environment access until the instructor has completed the training requirement.