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To:  
Faculty Senate

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Dear Senators:

The Faculty Senate IT Committee considered three different candidates for learning management systems: BlackBoard, Canvas, and Desire2Learn. While there are differences in their capabilities and usability, these differences tend to be small in the grand scheme of things. Similarly, pricing for all three are relatively the same. Our current learning management system, Pilot, which is based on Desire2Learn is currently hosted on premise. There is a big push from Desire2Learn to transition everyone over to a cloud-based setup. They will not offer anything other than the cloud-based solution to new customers and it is expected that we will have to move to the cloud eventually if we stay with Desire2Learn. This transition, however, would not affect the usage of the system in that it will still look and feel similar and additional services, such as Panopto, will still function in the same way. Additional advantages of the cloud solution would be a built-in disaster recovery mechanism.

Given the small differences in these solutions and our current budgetary situation, it would not be advisable to change learning management systems due to the fact that we would have to have a two year overlap between the new and the old system as well as the additional workload required to adapt the new system to our specific needs. It is therefore the recommendation of the Faculty Senate IT Committee to remain with Desire2Learn as our learning management solution with the option of moving into the cloud. In order to strengthen Wright State's negotiating position, we further would like to ask the Senate to vote on this issue as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Faculty Senate IT Committee