EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - LMS TASKFORCE REPORT

Introduction:

In the fall of 2013, Dr. Diane Fladeland commissioned a Learning Management System (LMS) Taskforce to review the effectiveness of our current LMS, *Jenzabar eRacer*, relative to new product offerings on the market. An interdisciplinary team was asked to serve on this taskforce. This team consisted of Rachael Brash (University of Mary Worldwide), Mike Chaussee (School of Arts and Sciences), Dr. Jayne Hardy (Student Success Center), Brandon Holt (Academic Affairs), Dr. Jim Long (Gary Tharaldson School of Business), Dr. Billie Madler (School of Health Sciences), Phil Reese (Dynamic Campus), and Dr. Brenda Werner (School of Education).

eRacer was assessed by the taskforce as functionally, technically, and fiscally substandard. The group created a Proof of Concept (POC) criteria document and invited vendors to demonstrate their products to a group of 20-25 university stakeholders including students, faculty, and staff the week of October 7th – 11th. The invited vendors were *Blackboard*, *eLearningForce (eLF)*, *Desire2Learn (D2L)*, *Loudcloud*, and *Instructure (Canvas)*.

Key Findings:

Vendors were evaluated on functional, technical, and fiscal criteria as compared to *eRacer*.

- Based on the taskforce's investigation, it was determined that the current LMS (*eRacer*) does not meet the University of Mary's requirements. Stakeholder consensus is that a change of LMS is needed;
- *D2L* and *Canvas* had the highest scores in the functional and technical criteria;
- *Canvas* had the highest score in the fiscal criterion by a significant margin;
- *eLearningForce* (ELF) and *Loudcloud* did not adequately meet the University of Mary's needs;
- Reference checks on *D2L* and *Canvas* were extremely positive;
- Migration of existing courses will be easier than anticipated due to common course cartridge functionality in accordance with industry standards; this function is lacking in *eRacer*.

General Recommendations:

The LMS Taskforce recommends a conversion to *Canvas* with a three-year commitment. This LMS will offer a functionally rich, technically stable, and fiscally responsible learning platform for students and faculty. The LMS Taskforce respectfully requests that the University of Mary expedite this purchase so migration, student data integration, and piloting can begin no later than January 1, 2014.

The LMS Taskforce would like to thank the numerous faculty and students who generously committed time and talent to the process. Their input was a valuable component of our decision-making process. Moreover, the LMS Taskforce would like to thank the President's Council for allowing us to explore this important issue and make our recommendation to you.

Faithfully submitted,

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Rachael Brash	Dr. Jim Long
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Mike Chaussee	Dr. Billie Madler
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Dr. Jayne Hardy	Phil Reese
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