

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: Andres Montenegro, Chair  
Academic Computing and Information Technology Advisory Subcommittee

DATE: December 9, 2015

SUBJ: Canvas Pilot Evaluation Report

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During the 2014-2015 academic year, a Purdue Multi-campus steering committee investigated and evaluated Canvas as a potential replacement for Blackboard as the university's Learning Management System (LMS). The final report of this committee recommends that Purdue renew its contract with Blackboard until 2019, with follow-up reviews to compare the LMSs in the future.

ACITAS agrees with the report's recommendation to continue with Blackboard and revisit this question in the future. IPFW's Blackboard contract is currently independent of Purdue's. This arrangement has many benefits, including a platform customized to IPFW's needs and quick resolution to IT issues. We strongly encourage IPFW to remain independent from a system-wide LMS implementation.

In light of the Canvas Pilot Evaluation, ACITAS recommends the following:

1. IPFW (and specifically ACITAS) should be represented on any future Purdue committee investigating LMS options.
2. If possible, IPFW's LMS contract dates should remain staggered from Purdue's to protect the benefits of our independent LMS implementation.
3. It would be helpful for IPFW leadership to articulate a clear vision about how and whether the needs and priorities of IPFW faculty and students will be protected in the event that a system-wide LMS implementation is required.