

Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning
Report to the Faculty Senate
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LMS Task Force

- Last year the JCODL recommended the formation of a Task Force to look at LMS options for URI. Six members of the Task Force served on that committee along with faculty appointed by the Faculty Senate, the Dean of a College, a representative from the Office of Online Education, two representatives from ITS, and one representative from Student Records.
- Members of the Committee spent the summer talking to institutions who currently used Sakai, had migrated from Sakai, or who were using Brightspace, Canvas, or Blackboard.
- In the fall we surveyed faculty about the LMS tools that were most important to them and how satisfied they were with those tools in Sakai. 253 Faculty responded and the very low satisfaction was clear.
- Using the data from the tools survey, the committee drafted an RFP and received responses from D2L (Brightspace), Instructure (Canvas), Blackboard, and Longsite (Sakai).
- After reviewing the RFP responses, Brightspace and Canvas received enough points to be invited to Canvas for two days of presentation to faculty, students, ITS staff, and faculty and staff interested in assessment. Faculty, staff, and students attending these sessions or who watched the video of them were asked to provide extensive feedback. This feedback showed a close split between the faculty review of the two systems.
- The committee also split evenly so that when the points were tallied, there was a .3 difference between the two system.
- Using the required purchasing system which has a formula for awarding points depending on the cost proposal (which the committee does not see until after they have submitted their points for the features), a tentative award letter has made to Brightspace
- We are now working on firming up the contract and making plans for migration, integration, and training.

URI Online

- In response to a solicitation from the Office of the Postsecondary Council last summer for proposals to deliver on a significant expansion of online postsecondary programs, the University of Rhode Island proposed the development of **URI Online**. This comprehensive initiative will provide degree completion pathways for adult learners, professional degree offerings for industry sectors showing signs of growth, and/or academic programs of excellence well established at the University.

- The governor's budget proposes 1.8 million dollars for 2019-2020 to build the infrastructure necessary to create URI Online. The intent is that this support will continue (although decreasing annually) for four years until URI Online becomes self-sustaining.
- The Joint Committee reviewed the plans for URI Online and submitted written comments to the Provost on the plans.
- Some departments have begun the process of developing programs for URI Online. This process begins with a market analysis to ensure that the program has the potential to attract students and that there will be employment for these students when they graduate.
- All programs and courses will go through the normal curricular approval processes.

Online Growth

- The number of online courses and sections offered by URI continues to grow
- The number of enrollments in online courses continues to grow.

Those demographics can be found here: <https://web.uri.edu/online/enrollment/>