

MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

Next Generation Learning Environment

by Elizabeth McMahon, Northland CTC faculty member, ASA Technology Council chair and Carrie Ward, M State -Moorhead faculty member, MSCF Technology/e-Learning Committee chair

A quick overview of the Next Generation LE workgroup project.

In 2004, MnSCU adopted Desire2Learn (known today as D2L Brightspace) as the system-wide, system-supported learning environment (LE) and it is used regularly by most faculty and students.

So, is there a future for D2L Brightspace and MnSCU? That's a good question. Given how closely faculty's daily work revolves around the use of D2L Brightspace tools, most faculty have an interest in knowing if there are conversations being had about moving in a new direction.

Key Point: No decision is being made to change from D2L Brightspace to a different LE at this time, but MnSCU is scanning the landscape in an effort to prepare for the future.

MnSCU has a contract with D2L Brightspace that will expire on August 31, 2018, with the option to renew for up to four years. MnSCU is at a point in the contract cycle where investigation and

conversations must occur about contract extensions and contract renewal.

In Fall 2015, a workgroup of the [ASA Technology Council](#) was created to conduct research and participate in an RFI (Request for Information) for the next generation LE. This Next Generation LE workgroup is comprised of faculty, staff, students, administrators and system office staff.

Making Comparisons

When considering a major purchase, there comes a time to compare it to the "competition" to ensure the product meets current needs as well as allow for growth in the future. This is true whether considering personal purchases or large-scale system contracts. The Next Generation LE workgroup has been tasked with identifying what LE's are available to support a system of this magnitude, what LE features might be needed a few years down to meet the needs of faculty and students, what features are missing in the current LE, etc... As a part of the evaluation process, the LE Workgroup will review the feedback from the D2L survey conducted in March 2015 by the [MSCF](#)

[Technology/e-Learning Committee](#).

This is an RFI, not an RFP (Request for Proposals)

The process begins by identifying what is available and an RFI is issued to various LE vendors requesting information about what their LE is, does and might do for a system of our size. This is different than an RFP as an RFI is simply seeking information for future consideration if, or when it becomes necessary to do a RFP. In a RFP, system-wide faculty input would also be solicited.

Information gathered as part of the research and RFI process will be reported to the ASA Technology Council and recommendations made on any contract extensions for D2L Brightspace and any other future directions to explore.

Final Point: D2L Brightspace will be used for the foreseeable future, but work is being done now to ensure MnSCU faculty and students have an LE that supports their future needs. Stay tuned...

Volume 2, Issue 20
February 11, 2016



MSCF NEEDS YOU!

On February 20, MSCF will be conducting membership engagement and organizing training for members who are interested in becoming New Member Organizers. AFT will lead this training which will be crucial to the future of MSCF. Come join us!

MSCF Delegate Assembly Call for Delegates

Chapter Presidents need to submit chapter delegate names by this Friday, February 12. Names must be submitted online via the new MSCF [website](#).

Contact your chapter president today to participate in one or both of these very important opportunities!