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IMPLEMENTING BLENDED LEARNING AT GCU

Overview



- Background
- Rationale
- Implementation plan
- Challenges and opportunities

Background (1)



- **Early adopter** of Blackboard (2000)
- **Local** enthusiasts & champions
- **Varied uptake** across Schools
- Where does e-learning sit?
 - Within **7 Academic Schools**
 - Information Services
 - Caledonian Academy
 - Learner Support
 - OD

Background (2)



- E-learning **benchmarking** exercise, 2007-8 (HEA)
- New **Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy** (April 2008) – integrates e-learning
- Focus on **independent learners, work-ready graduates**
- Changing **student demand & expectations**

Research studies



Learner Experience of e-learning (LEX)

JISC funding

<http://tinyurl.com/3ex9qk>

Learning from Digital Natives (LDN)

HEA funding

<http://www.academy.gcal.ac.uk/ldn/LDNFinalReport.pdf>

Successful e-learners -

- **Different approaches** to studying – multi-tasking, 'subversive' use of technology, skilled networkers
- **Willing to engage** with technology for learning & expect tutors to engage also
- Deal with **strong emotional reactions** towards technology
- A new '**underworld**' of digital communication BUT – Digital Natives???



Personal Devices

"I couldn't live without my mobile phone ..."

"I use my laptop, I take it away, it's attached to me, I couldn't survive without it ..."

"I always have my phone and i-Pod with me ..."

It's good that everything's on there so I can access [Blackboard] from home, I can access it from work, I can access it in here and it tends to be quite well laid out and quite user-friendly.

Not all the tutors support Blackboard as well as each other. Some of them are much better at it than others and when you become comfortable with one tutor and he's extremely helpful on it, you expect that from the others.

Initial focus

- Relate to goals of new LTAS
- Bb Academic Suite (v 8.0.3 – externally hosted)
- Bb planning services
- Focus on Content and Community systems
- Portal, e-portfolio, sharing resources

Story so far...

- Cross-University Implementation group
- Working with Bb consultants
- Community and content system planning and training
- Series of pilot projects planned
- Staged roll-out of new features

Implementing Blended learning - 4 key components

(Collis & Moonen, 2001)

School contexts & needs Integration issues

Internal structural & personnel changes Ownership issues

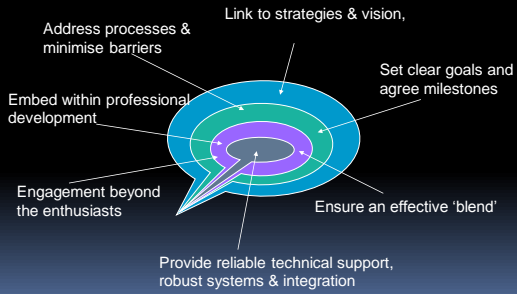
Student expectations

Proliferation of web 2.0 and virtual worlds Staff expectations

Support and training Blackboard 9??

Learning & Teaching

Some key success factors



SCOT - BUG

Sharing experiences -

- Community and content systems –
- Who else has done/is doing an institution-wide roll-out?
- Where does the ownership lie?
- Where are the technical/ design/strategic pitfalls/opportunities?
- How do we ensure engagement?