

# CAMPUS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005

2:30–3:30 P.M.

PLAZA BALLROOM III

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## Discussion Leader

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## Background

Institutions are adopting course management systems (CMS) as part of the technological infrastructure to facilitate student-centered learning. The CMS is a suite of software tools and services that integrates faculty activities (such as an online syllabus, online grading books, course announcements, and assigned and recommended readings), student activities (such as access to reading assignments, collaborative group work spaces, chat rooms, and access to grades), administrative activities (such as course Web site creation and maintenance, provision of statistics and usage data, and the ability to add or delete students), with content and services (such as licensed electronic journals; content from digital libraries; Web-accessible content from universities, the Library of Congress, and other sources; online reference services).

The Sakai Project is a community source software development effort to design, build, and deploy a new Collaboration and Learning Environment (CLE) for higher education. BlackBoard and WebCT are two well-known commercial course management systems.

A variety of pedagogical, technical, financial, and policy issues are emerging as institutions integrate course management systems into their teaching and learning environments. One of these issues is content, or “learning objects.” In many cases, a faculty member populates the CMS with locally developed content such as course notes, tests and problem exercises, reading lists, and syllabi. In addition, a growing number of faculty are licensing commercial content directly from CMS vendors or content providers. That licensed content often duplicates electronic resources already available through the library.

## Possible Discussion Questions

- What campus unit has taken the lead in managing & supporting the institutional CMS? the library, IT, Instructional Technology, Teaching & Learning Centers (TLC), others?
- Who is responsible for licensing content for the CMS? the faculty, departmental staff, TLC staff, others?
- To what extent does the content come directly from the CMS vendor or content provider? Does the library also license those items?
- Is there overlap between material on print or electronic reserves and in the CMS? Are fewer faculty using electronic reserves? If so, is the decrease a direct result of the increased use of the CMS? Can students access electronic reserves from their course management systems or vice versa?
- What strategies has your library developed to enable library-licensed content to be moved transparently into the CMS? What is the progress in the Sakai development for using licensed or other digital library materials?
- If your library has tried to seed the CMS with library-licensed electronic content, how have you addressed technical or licensing challenges? What are the challenges related to including freely available digital content in the CMS?
- Who in the library is involved in talking with faculty about the content going into the CMS? a reference librarian, the head of the reserve department, a bibliographer?