

# OAK Faculty Advisory Committee

Minutes, October 7, 2014

## 1. Welcome to Brett Benson, PoliSci

## 2. Inactivation of courses in the legacy OAK environment

31,939 courses inactivated (of approximately 82,000 courses in the system)

82 “requested courses” were retained or reactivated.

The changes of two weeks ago (which addressed gigantic course size, including a 1.8 TB course) made a marked difference in performance; the inactivation of courses this last week, however, led to only mild improvement.

We will undertake a second round of inactivation for those courses from prior to F13 which had been marked “active” in the system. That is slated to take place on Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and will affect another 15,3000 courses. An updated note will be placed in the OAK Performance box to inform faculty and students what has occurred.

We believe from what we have seen inside the system that the performance has likely been degrading for years.

## 3. Info Flow: There are a variety of ways we are trying to distribute information:

a) The “OAK Performance” box: although we have had requests to move or minimize the box, this is the principal avenue by which information reaches users, and it should stay in place until after the winter break migration to a hosted Blackboard platform.

b) This committee’s web-site, where minutes are posted:

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/oak/oak-fac.php>

c) news stories in myVU and myVUMC

d) direct contact with owners of courses, including the various all-campus blasts which have gone out. We are now planning for more targeted messaging, for example to faculty whose courses have unattached files that might have been intended for deletion.

e) Center for Teaching messaging – particularly about such tasks like deleting an object. Effective October 15<sup>th</sup>, the CFT will take over the primary role of overseeing communication to the rest of campus.

f) We will investigate whether an OAK link might go into the Vanderbilt website’s main page drop-down menu “for faculty.”

g) discussion of whether a Red Cap survey might get at user response data. Idea: Do that at the moment of transition – likely in January – to help with troubleshooting.

## 4. Emerging support models:

Movement of faculty-facing role to the Center for Teaching (effective October 15)

Regular VUIT help process will remain active for now; **the transition plan and proposed new structure are still in preparation**

Strong desire to continue to have school-based folks to interface with faculty around OAK issues. We explored the idea of a “who answers the phone answers the question” model – where instead of having the user chase around for answers, the support

person picks up the phone. This could be combined with the regular ticketing system in order to be transparent to the CFT.

Process for proposal vetting and review for big applications like OAK:

EMOS (Enrollment Management Operations Support) + VUIT

AAAOC (Academic Affairs Application Oversight Committee)

PPIDG (Process Priority and Institutional Data Governance)

#### 5. Size of courses

1 GB: there are over 438 courses, d50 of which are in nursing. These involved 280 instructors.

2 GB: there are 185 courses at that size (out of 36,000 courses).

Among both sets, this would involve a lot of video, audio, and PowerPoint.

PLAN OF ACTION REGARDING COURSE SIZE: The plan is to prioritize the “course size” list and reach out individually to faculty in side-by-side consulting sessions to see if we can pare courses down without losing content. That will be a facilitated process.

SIZE OF A COURSE: If faculty want to know the size of the course, they can check for themselves:

- a. From the Blackboard main page, on the left side of the screen, click on “Packages and utilities.”
- b. click on “export/archive course.”
- c. When that interface pops up, click on “calculate size.”

Note: “Copy a course” gives you the same interface.

UNLINKED MEDIA: One of the aspects that leads to course size increases appears to be the presence of unlinked media files. From within a course, faculty can check for these:

- a. click on “Files” – click on course name.
- b. select “list all files associated with the course.”
- c. sort by size, and then use the 360-degree view to see if they are attached. For instance, one user found 3 copies of the same PDF, but only one of those was linked.
- d. select the other copies for deletion, or archive them if they’ll be needed later.

To be clear, wherever we have concerns, **we will use a consulting model to work through the file issues and size-of-course concerns. Pedagogical need is our most important consideration.**