LMS Committee Meeting Report for 2014-2015 (by Richard Golden)

Participants: Karl Ho, Gene, Yuli (Math), Katrina (Elearning), Richard Golden (chair), Darren Crone (Elearning)

Initial Comment: It is crucial that Darren Crone (Director of Elearning) attend all meetings of the LMS Committee

ELEARNING SYSTEM OPERATIONS
The committee discussed the status of the ELEARNING system from an operational perspective. That is, not from a usability perspective but rather is the current ELEARNING system functioning properly and not "breaking down". Based upon these discussions we concluded it was in good shape but that it would be helpful
to design some sort of survey to assess usability for faculty. Karl in particular suggested that a Qualtrix faculty survey might be very informative.

MOOCS
The issue of MOOCs was also discussed and it was noted that the transition from materials developed in an ELEARNING environment to a MOOC environment can be straightforward. Nevertheless, the problem remains that most of the leaders in the UT Community who are behind MOOCs are not clear among themselves
what are the goals of a MOOC. For example, should it be money, should it be to deliver quality education in an
altruistic manner, should it be to provide "brand recognition" for the UT system. In the real world, the answer most
likely is a complex combination of all of these factors but few academic leaders have a clear vision of even
an approximate qualitative weighting of these factors. This is fundamentally important not just from an administrative position or from a faculty position. This issue is fundamentally important from a technical position
regarding how resources in ELEARNING should be strategically allocated to support MOOC development.
Clearer guidance from administrative officials is required here. Another related issue regarding MOOCS is why do they cost so much?

ELEARNING
Issues of ELEARNING were also discussed. Communication issues such as video conferencing and clickers were discussed. In addition, the topic of how can ELEARNING methods be used to assess "deep understanding"?

AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS
(1) Survey to Obtain Faculty Input on ELEARNING Environment implemented using Qualtrix
(2) Examples of using ELEARNING to assess "deep understanding" in an automated manner.