

To All Blackboard Faculty:

Exciting changes are coming later this year that will make it easier for you and your students to use Blackboard:

- You will no longer have to request new Bb courses each semester. Bb courses for each class listed in the CARS (and later Banner) system will be created automatically.
- All new courses will be set initially to “not available”--only you will be able to see them. When you are ready to have your students see your courses, you can make them “available” for student view.
- You will no longer have to request that the CTL copy content from your previous semester’s courses into your new courses. You will be able to copy course content between Bb courses.
- Your students will no longer have to wade through the cumbersome online catalog to self-enroll in your courses. As student enrollments are processed in CARS (and later Banner), they will be automatically enrolled into your Bb courses.

When will these changes occur?

- We are working with Blackboard, Inc. to be ready to implement this by summer session 2007. However, if the system is “not ready for primetime” by the end of April, then we will implement it in fall semester, 2007.

Will faculty still be able to enroll and remove students from their Bb classes?

- Yes. The enroll and remove students function in the instructor’s Control Panel will remain unchanged. There will, however, be no more student self-enroll.

There are some Blackboard courses in my account that I no longer need. Can they be deleted?

- Yes. Starting later this month, CTL personnel will begin contacting all Bb instructors to determine which courses should remain and which should be deleted. Since there are well over 5,000 courses and a few hundred instructor accounts, this process will likely take a few months.

What about accessing Blackboard through NEIUport?

- As you know, the “single user sign-in” access from within the NEIUport portal was not ready when we came back from vacation in January. The vendors are still working on this issue. At some point, the Bb login page will be replaced by an icon inside NEIUport that will take users directly into Bb, without having to log in a second time. We hope that this will occur sooner, rather than later.