



### Grade Center Help

As this Fall Semester comes to a close, the submission of final grades is quickly approaching. We at the FTC would encourage you to assure that your students' scores are organized for easy grade calculation. This way if any complications arise we will be able to help you, and right now we have plenty of time. The closer we get to the end of the semester, the busier we'll be. So stop by now or call us soon at ext. 1592 regarding Grade Center!

Also, this month's workshops are designed to help faculty better manage and navigate their grades. Help will also be provided to prepare for next semester. Please attend the workshops to resolve questions and concerns.

### Results from the I-Learn Survey

You may have been a part of the 1/3 of faculty members who recently took the 2008 I-Learn survey. The survey asked questions from what percentage of faculty use I-Learn, to how satisfied faculty are with the different tools and options in I-Learn. The results showed that most of you *use* I-Learn, but how did you respond about whether or not you *like* it? As far as the survey went, faculty concerns and frustrations with I-Learn are undeniable. While there are a portion of faculty members who have little qualms with I-Learn, the majority begs to differ. The two greatest dissatisfactions were with Grade Center and tests/quizzes. Most faculty agreed that I-Learn in general isn't saving them time or helping them teach.

Arlen Wilcock, Director of the Department of Instructional Technology, stated that the survey was given in order to "really identify concerns," so that the I-Learn Strategy

Committee, along with the Faculty Advisory Committee for I-Learn can formulate a plan to make improvements! These committees consist of faculty and both Academic Technology and Information Technology personnel who "want to be responsive to faculty's concerns about I-Learn."



So what exactly are all these committees planning to do to fix the problem? Orren Squires, AT Coordinator of I-Learn Development, told of the measures now being taken to give faculty more options as far as interactive and social network tools that I-Learn lacks. Squires explained that Blackboard is more tool and class centered,

instead of "people centered." He also explained that tools will be made available to faculty in the future that will allow them to connect groups and people from different classes or organizations. Other frustrations, such as Grade Center, are also being analyzed, and a strategy is being formulated to make it better. Academic Technology is aware of the frustration; Squires says to faculty, "We know you're frustrated," and he, along with many committee members, is working on solutions!

Wilcock stated that any major changes made to I-Learn would take several semesters to implement, and "We'll be developing other approaches in parallel with Blackboard, so that when we do find something better and easier, [faculty] will be able to switch easily."

## December Workshops

### I-Learn Course Management

**Course creation, course copy, sandbox, course shells**

Thursday, December 4; 2:00pm-3:00pm

Thursday, December 11; 8:00am-9:00am

McKay 364

### Grade Center

**Download and print grades, grade reports, total columns**

Thursday, December 4; 8:00am-9:00am

Wednesday, December 10; 8:00am-9:00am

Thursday, December 11; 2:00pm-3:00pm

McKay 364

Updated workshop schedule at [http://www.byui.edu/at/ilearn\\_schedule.htm](http://www.byui.edu/at/ilearn_schedule.htm)

## Tip of the Month

### Ponder and Prove

**Align with outcomes.** Create Prove activities that always focus on learning outcomes. Ponder activities should also start with outcomes, even if students choose to take them further.

**Make it authentic.** Pondering and Proving in realistic scenarios is a natural companion to experiential learning and teaching at BYU-Idaho.

**Show them.** Don't assume students know how and why to Ponder. Give them opportunities and show a few examples from time to time. Help students improve their study skills by using the free services available through Academic Learning.

**Make time.** It's easy to over-plan teaching activities or underestimate how much preparation is really required for a class. If you don't carefully reserve time for Pondering and Proving, it rarely happens.

If you have questions regarding the Tip of the Month, refer to the *Inspired Learning and Teaching* website at <http://www.byui.edu/learningandteaching>