



Educational & Research Technologies Committee  
Minutes  
Microsoft Teams  
April 13, 2020

Present: Nick Bouffard (SGA), Thomas Chittenden (Faculty Senate President), Hung Do (BSAD), Deb Ellis (CAS), Lutz Kaelber (CAS), Jane Petrillo (CALS), Helen Read (CEMS), Lyman Ross (LIB), Regina Toolin (CESS), Scott Vanson (GSS)

Absent: Luben Dimov (RSEN), Elise Hotaling (LCOM), Tim Tourville (CNHS), Marie Wood (LCOM)

Guests: Mike Austin, J. Dickinson, Alex Messinger, Jenny Wilkinson

Co-Chair Helen Read called the meeting to order at 9:02 am via Microsoft Teams.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of March 2020 were approved with a correction to the date of the next meeting.
2. **Remote Learning and COVID-19.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the University of Vermont has transitioned into remote learning after the regularly scheduled spring recess. This unprecedented change has created issues for both faculty and students. Some of the issues the ERTC discussed included:
  - i. Studio / lab courses and how they are delivered.
  - ii. Access to reliable internet services.
  - iii. Class meeting patterns, as some students live in different time zones.
  - iv. How to keep students part of the learning community when they have no classroom interactions.
  - v. Work load, how moving to remote learning has increased the workload tremendously for the faculty.

CTL has been extremely helpful in the transition to remote learning. Students have been patient and overall the process is working well because of the hard work and dedication of both faculty and students. The university infrastructure is holding up and most of the issues that are being addressed are due to the end user and their access to reliable internet.

J. Dickinson is conducting a survey on remote learning. With only three weeks of classes left, this survey will be used to help provide insight for the future should the need for remote learning happen again. The hope is to be on campus in the fall but this survey will help prepare for the worst. There is a working group that is monitoring the situation and coming up with always changing plans. The ERTC would like to have representation on this committee. Regina and Helen will work with J. to make this request.

3. **Yellowdig, Jenny Wilkinson.**

# Why Yellowdig?

Dr. Jenny Wilkinson

Senior Lecturer

Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences

## Student Poll ASCI 005

University of Vermont Communities Discover

ASCIO05OL1 Intro to the Horse

### ASCIO05OL1 Intro to the Horse

88% 100 / 100

- Community
  - Activity
  - My Participation
  - Members
  - Settings
  - Points Report
  - Files
  - Community Health
  - Flagged Posts

Invite

#### POLL

Pinned Post QUESTIONS?

Jenny Wilkinson OWNER Last Thursday at 9:22 AM EDT

Faculty members in charge of adopting new technology at UVM have asked me to speak at their next committee meeting this Monday at 9am in regards to using Yellowdig over Blackboard's Discussion Board. Please take a moment and vote in this poll which asks you about your preference. The poll will close at 8pm on Sunday. You will be able to see the current results after you vote, and I will share all of the results once the poll closes. Please feel free to post comments below if you have anything else to add about Yellowdig or Blackboard's Discussion Board. THANKS!

I have used Blackboard's Discussion Board before and I prefer Yellowdig	74%
I have used Blackboard's Discussion Board and I prefer Blackboard over Yellowdig	4%
I have not used Blackboard's Discussion Board, but I like the discussions on Yellowdig	22%
I have not used Blackboard's Discussion Board, but I do not like the discussions on Yellowdig and would prefer to use a different discussion format	0%

23 votes cast

Voting expired at 4.12.20 08:22 PM

Read Comment

# Benefits of Yellowdig

- Faculty do not need to grade discussions
  - Student points feed directly back to Blackboard's Grade Center
  - Faculty spend more time interacting with students on Yellowdig
- Responsibility of students to earn their points per week

## 4. Total Point Goal

How many points should community members earn in total between the point start and end dates to get 100% participation?

1400

## 5. Weekly Point Limit

What is the most points a community member should be able to earn in a week?  
Target Weekly Point Amount

100

Community Members Earn Points By:

Creating a new Post

+20

• With 40 Minimum Words

[Edit](#)

Commenting on another user's Post

+30

• With 40 Minimum Words

[Edit](#)

Receiving a Comment from another user

+2

[Edit](#)

Receiving a Reaction from another user

+2

[Edit](#)

# Benefits of Yellowdig

- Enhances discussions
  - More interactive
  - More participation

## ASCI221A Lameness in Horses

72.23% 0 / 100

### Community

Activity

My Participation

Members

Settings

Points Report

Files

Community Health

Flagged Posts

[Invite](#)

[Unfollow](#)



### DIAGNOSIS OF LAMENESS

#### Detecting Subtle Lameness

04/03/2020 EDT (Edited 04/03/2020 EDT)

I have a hard time detecting subtle lameness because I haven't spent all that much time around horses in my life, so I was looking for a resource which could help me. I found this video- it's kind of long, but I found it really helpful. It points out lots of subtle signs of lameness which I wouldn't have thought about before. One thing that stood out to me was that the veterinarian always watches the horse being ridden as part of her lameness exam (unless the horse is obviously too lame to be worked) so that she can fully appreciate the changes that the owner/rider reports. Until listening to Jenny's lecture on orthopedic exams, this was something I hadn't really thought about, but it makes sense because the rider can also give good input, and the horse may respond differently under saddle. With the due date for the video assignment coming up, I thought it might be helpful to other people as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-EfhUsFWOI>

YOUTUBE Feb 24, 2019



Read Less

1

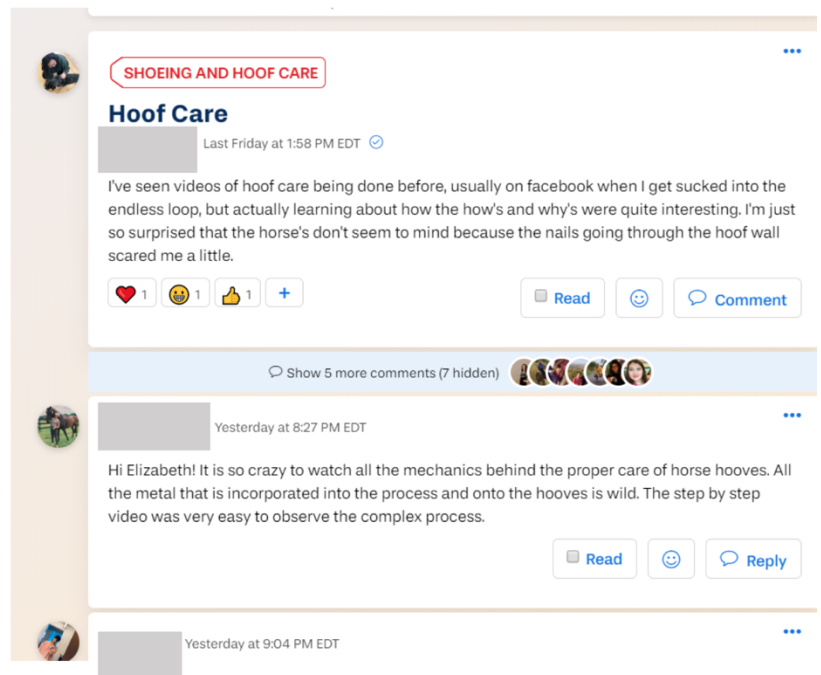
[Read](#)



[Comment](#)

# Benefits of Yellowdig

- Tool is very 'social media like'
  - Big improvement over Blackboard discussion
  - Helps build better community among class



The committee was very excited about the prospects of Yellowdig. Alex Messinger is reaarching the cost and will report back to J. and the committee. The university currently has some licesnes and will continue to use them in cerain areas.

4. **Remote Learning Exam Schedule.** Helen met with J. Dickinson and Wendy Bernback earlier to week to discus how exams will be administered during remote learning. There is more unforamtion on this on the university website including this article.

## New Software to Support Remote Instruction and Exams

UVM is making Screencast-O-Matic screencasting software available for all faculty on a 6-month license. Faculty can [download the software here](#). This software allows users to make a video capture ("screencast") of the activity on a computer screen with audio narration. Instructions on how to use the software, and how to upload and share your videos with your students using UVM Streaming are available [here](#). GTAs can download the free version of the software, which has many of the same features, [here](#).

UVM has a site-wide license for two Respondus products that deter cheating on exams that are administered online.

1. Respondus Lockdown Browser is a web browser which restricts student access to only UVM's Blackboard server during an exam. When it is in use, all other applications and websites are inaccessible to students when taking a test.

2. Respondus Monitor is a video “proctoring” add-on to Lockdown Browser; this tool is now available for all faculty to use. While these tools can’t fully prevent cheating, they can act as a deterrent. Instructions for faculty and students on using Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor are available [here](#).

At this time, we are discouraging use of other proctoring software that passes a fee to the student. Faculty members should seek approval from their Dean if they anticipate the need to use a fee-based service.

Where possible, faculty should consider alternatives to long, high-stakes exams. In addition to academic integrity concerns, these exams can be difficult for students to complete if they have a poor internet connection. While not all alternatives will be scalable to larger classes, some examples of alternatives would be: have more frequent, shorter quizzes; use open-book take-home exams that require students to demonstrate their thinking process for a smaller number of problems/questions; create alternative assignments that require students to demonstrate and apply understanding of course concepts drawn from across the semester (short position paper; fact sheet; presentation; proposal). CTL and WID have added workshops that cover these and other techniques called “Reimagining Testing while Teaching Remotely” and “Transforming Tests into Alternative Assignments” to their [upcoming events](#). CTL will also be adding a resource on alternatives to high stakes exams in the [Teaching Continuity](#) page early this week.

**5. New Business / Old Business.** There was no new / old business at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

**The next meeting of the ERTC will take place on May 4<sup>th</sup> via Microsoft Teams.**