

OHLONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Douglas Treadway
DATE: May 9, 2007
SUBJECT: Approval of Contract for WebCT License and ASP Hosting with Blackboard, Inc.

For the past several years Ohlone College's WebCT Course Management System (CMS) has been hosted by the California Community College Chancellor's Office – California Virtual College (CVC) program. This arrangement has allowed Ohlone College to offer Distance Education Courses via a reliable, cost effective infrastructure subsidized by the Chancellor's Office.

In 2005 the Chancellor's Office informed CVC participants that it would no longer host and subsidize College's CMS Systems. The Chancellor's office communicated that beginning 2006 colleges would need to make arrangements to host their CMS application. However, due to responses from participating colleges the Chancellor's office extended the CVC support arrangement for an additional year, 2006-2007.

During this intervening time the Distance Education Committee and the IT Department have worked collaboratively to investigate a new CMS hosting solution. The result of this effort is the recommendation that the College move to a commercial hosting model (Application Service Provider, ASP) provided by Blackboard/WebCT. Additionally, to implement many of the application enhancements that faculty and students have been asking for the Distance Education Committee has recommended that we upgrade to the current version of WebCT version 6.0. One significant advantage of this upgrade is that it will allow the college to implement WebCT's ePortfolio tool in line with the College's Title III project.

While this move to a commercially hosted CMS represents a significant cost increase for the College, given the numbers of students served (over 4300 in 2005-2006), the cost is well justified. The following funding sources will be used to support this contract agreement:

2006-2007 Instructional Software Fund 21 - \$45,000.00

2006-2007 Capital Planning "One Time Funds" - \$71,000.00

2007-2008 Capital Planning "One Time Funds" - \$51,220.00

RECOMMENDATION:

The President/Superintendent recommends that the Board of Trustees approves the contract for WebCT License and ASP hosting for \$167,220.00. This cost includes approximately \$21,000 in one time setup costs and \$145,620.00 annual cost for WebCT license and ASP hosting.