

**From:** [UHD Provost](#)  
**To:** [UHD Provost](#)  
**Subject:** Selection of New Learning Management System  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 4:40:26 PM

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## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

### New Learning Management System

Dear Colleagues,

We have been working toward greater accessibility of our educational resources, including Blackboard (Bb) delivery. Over the past several years, faculty have been engaged in promoting access through its conscientious engagement with Bb Ally. This effort has been critical to promoting student-focused and accessible educational resources. Nonetheless, the UH System continues to identify additional avenues to ensure that we are in full compliance with state and federal accessibility requirements. There is a System Administrative Memorandum, [SAM1.D.13](#), that offers more insight into the system's role in ensuring that all four universities are in alignment with state and federal expectations.

During a recent accessibility review at the University of Houston, Bb Learn, as a Learning Management System (LMS), did not meet the state and federal requirements. According to a consultant engaged by UH, the following LMS packages meet the accessibility requirements: Canvas, Desire-to-learn (D2L), and Blackboard Ultra (note that Bb Ultra is entirely different from Bb Learn).

President Blanchard, IT leadership, and Academic Affairs have agreed that we should start a review and selection process for a new LMS that meets the accessibility requirements. To build on the conversations and goals that spurred our BB Ally success, we have met with the Academic Technology Committee (ATC) and the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellent (CTLE) Online Subcommittee. We will be working with them to determine next steps and anticipate seeking faculty input over the next few weeks.

We are working with the ATC group on a timeline that will include the process for selecting an LMS and the timeline for implementation of the new system. We will provide substantial support and guidance to all faculty regarding any transition process as soon as the LMS is selected and contracted. Our working assumption is that we will launch the full LMS in our classes in Fall 2023; we are confirming details with our system colleagues.

We will provide more information about the LMS initiative as it unfolds.

Thank you.