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EDUC 401

Final Project: CLUE Resource

<u>Potential CLUE Resource (Policy Change):</u> Access to class Canvas pages

As a chemistry tutor, I plan and give exam reviews to students before their midterms and finals. A major part of the exam review process is actually creating the exam review worksheet. Currently, the chemistry tutors create their reviews based on the chapters Xin Ray has listed for on the exam review Excel file. However, Xin Ray is busy, and the file is not always up to date.

For example, the worksheet I created for my last CHEM 142 review included chapters 3, 4, and 13, which are the ones listed. However, the students pointed out to me (thankfully at the beginning of the review) that chapter 13 was not covered but chapter 15 would be on the exam. Without the correct content, my ability to foster both active and independent learning decreased. I didn't have the correct resources for them to work on and even attempt individually so their independent understanding of Chapter 15 from the review suffered[2]. In order to adjust, I scrambled for old problems from past reviews and, although I presented it, I was not able to quickly find a blank version and so we went over the answers together. My in-review solution was to give them link to the solutions and put up the hand-written problem on the projector. Although they were still actively learning by trying the problem, they didn't complete much group or individual work[1] which would be supplemented by my explanation.

My goal for this policy change is to ensure that all tutors are able to access the Canvas pages of the classes for which they will be hosting exam reviews. I understand that professors are hesitant to give access to multiple students due to a variety of reasons,

including wanting to keep their classes private and avoiding the effort of adding an entire CLUE team to the Canvas page. This posed multiple obstacles for universal Canvas access by tutors. I needed to consider the following questions:

1. How do I minimize the number of emails a professor has to add to the Canvas page? Reluctant professors are unhelpful professors.

2. How do I ensure that all tutors of a specific subject can access all Canvas pages relevant to the subject? Different professors emphasize different things and may even change the course content on an exam depending on how much is covered in the class lectures.

3. How do I reduce the load on the Lead Tutors? They have work to do besides downloading every syllabus and uploading the content for every test.

In order to make this easier on the professors, who will sometimes grudgingly give *one* NetID access to the Canvas pages, I am suggesting that a NetID be created for CLUE tutors specifically. The first thought was to use the @CLUEchem NetID but the information associated with that account is also administrative and general tutors do not need to access the information. The next question is then:

4. What is a NetID unique from existent CLUE NetIDs but still CLUE-specific?

Whether the NetID is subject specific in unimportant, although it would likely be preferable to reduce Canvas page clutter. A NetID that would include all CLUE tutors and decrease hassle by minimizing the number of different NetIDs would be @CLUEtutors, if available. However, using NetIDs along the lines of @CLUEphystutors and @CLUEchemtutors would also have the same result while being subject-specific. By implementing these NetIDs for Canvas access, several issues regarding exam reviews can be solved simultaneously.

Annotated Bibliography

[1] Center for Educational Innovation. "Active Learning." *Center for Educational Innovation*, University of Minnesota, cei.umn.edu/active-learning.

This is an article regarding active learning, which I believe to be an important learning process. I personally have found that active learning increases my content retention during courses. One form of active learning during CLUE exam reviews occurs when students work together in groups before tutors review the problems, and this form of active learning is curtailed when the resources are unavailable.

[2] Creative Education. "Independent Learning: What role does the teacher have to play?" *Creative Education*, Creative Education, https://www.creativeeducation.co.uk/blog/independent-learning/.

This is an article regarding independent learning which I find works well with the idea of active learning. This article points out that although independent learning is important for practicing problems, tutors are meant to provide the valuable resources required to learn concepts. Independent learning meshes well with the idea of active learning because both incorporate work by the student with resources and review offered by someone overseeing the situation.