September 10th, 2025
NSM-IT meeting

Academic Technology Updates

Main 6:
1. DOJ Accessibility
2. Simple Syllabus
3. Instructional Updates
4. Event or Meeting support
5. Listserv
6. AI

1. **Accessibility:** [The DOJ Title II](#) rule prompted emails to faculty members to improve course accessibility scores. The deadline they have shared for this to be completed is April 2026.

    a. Faculty can reach out to us directly for help with their Canvas courses.
    b. Tammy Gardiner (tmgardin@central.uh.edu) and David Spears (dmspear2@Central.UH.EDU) from the Digital Accessibility Team in [EOS](#) encourage faculty to contact them for accessibility-related questions and one-on-one assistance. They can be reached via Teams or email.
    c. [Canvas Accessibility Course for Instructors](#) in Canvas.
    d. Learn to share PowerPoint presentations (PPT) and PDF files in Canvas using the [Canvas Accessibility](#) document.
    e. Development website for a guide on [Accessibility: Creating Accessible Course Materials](#) PPT.
    f. Essential resource: [Image accessibility creator from ASU](#)

2. **Course design: On March 26th,** the provost's office announced the Simple Syllabus to all faculty via email and Canvas notifications.
    - Simple Syllabus is a centralized, template-driven platform that enables instructors to personalize and publish interactive class syllabi quickly.
    - Instructors **are required** to complete their syllabi **four weeks** before the course begins.
    - For instructions and information, visit the [Instruction@UH - Simple Syllabus](#) site or contact us.
    - For training on Simple Syllabus, please register at [FDIS Calendar](#) or view this [Simple Syllabus Training Presentation](#).

3. **Instructional:**
    a. **Starting September 22, 2025** YouTube videos in Canvas may start to display ads, to combat this, instructors are being encouraged to use Canvas Studio to share YouTube links, as it comes with [YouTube's *Player for Education,*](#) which boasts a secure, ad-free, student-safe video experience.
    b. Faculty will be able to request their courses by **November**. Please encourage them to keep the [UH course request policy](#) in mind.
    c. The Office 365 landing page has been updated to display the **Microsoft 365 CoPilot homepage**. Faculty can now either navigate to the "apps" section to access their office 365 apps or [bookmark and directly navigate to the list of apps](#).

d. The UH FDIS office has added faculty to some Canvas courses for faculty professional development:
    i. [AI Basics for Instructors](#)
    ii. [Canvas Accessibility for Content Creators](#)
    iii. [Growing With Canvas](#)
    iv. [Instruction@UH Tutorials](#)
e. **The next Canvas Overview is Monday, September 22nd, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm CST**. Please join if you are interested in learning more about Canvas. Click on the link to register/join. [FDIS Calendar](#)
f. CASA Exams Checklist: Please request faculty to follow the recommendations in the [CASA Exam Checklist](#) when setting up their exams.
    i. **Required CASA and DART IP addresses** (can be directly copied and pasted into Canvas): 129.7.99.13,129.7.253.187,129.7.140.59,129.7.140.54,129.7.55.43.
    ii. Faculty can also refer to the [steps to create a Canvas Quiz for use at the CASA Testing Center](#).

4. **Event or Meeting support:**
   We have seen an increase in meeting or event support requests and so wanted to share some updated guidelines:
   a. For Zoom Licenses, please email UIT at software@uh.edu
   b. For event support, we will be supporting the office of the Dean and Provost's events, and will be directing faculty to the departmental support for any additional requests. Thank you in advance for your support!
   c. For video recording requests, please let us know at least **48 hours** before so that we can properly coordinate our resources.

5. **Listserv:** The NSM-FACULTY listserv has been updated to reflect leadership changes. Dr. Gregory Dudley (New Dean) and Dr. Dan Wells (Former Dean) were added to ensure continuity in communications.

6. **AI:**
   a. [AI at UH:](#) Explore AI research and programs at UH.
   b. [AI for Education](#): Tips on using AI for education.
   c. [AI Basics for Instructors](#): Canvas course.
   d. [AI Basics for Students:](#) Canvas course.
   e. Join the **UH ChatGPT User Group** and connect with the community! To become a member, search for "AI and ChatGPT User Group" in TEAMS or request an invitation at tyacosta@uh.edu.

Reminders

- **Instructional:** Canvas Integrations
  - Remember that all [Canvas integrations need to be TXRAMP certified](#).

- **Instructional:**
  - Canvas Faculty test environments:
    - [uh.beta.instructure.com](#) resets every week on Saturday evening.
    - [uh.test.instructure.com](#) resets every month on the 3rd Saturday in the evening.
    - Instructional: Instructors requesting course content from Blackboard request a [Developmental and Special Course Shell Request Form](#).

- Communications:
  - [NSM-IT website templates](#)
  - NSMIT [Sharepoint site Template](#).
  - [NSMIT Google site Template.](#)
  - [HTML Templates](#).
  - [NSM Canvas course Templates](#)

- Communications: Listserv: The [NSM mailing lists](#) document includes some of the NSM mailing lists we help manage. If you need access to any of them, please contact our group.
  - Learn [How to unsubscribe from a LISTSERV® list 1.mp4](#)

Faculty Resources

- [NSM-IT Canvas - Faculty Resources](#)
- [Canvas info team](#) to post questions and communicate with other instructors and support staff
- [NSM Canvas Faculty Resources](#) | [NSM Canvas course templates](#)
- [Semester Resources](#)
- [Faculty one-page resource](#)
- [NSM Instructional Resources](#)
- [UH Knowledge Base](#) - Canvas version
- [UIT Office365 Support Hour (weekly Friday sessions 2-3 pm)](#)
- Faculty can post volunteer and paid research opportunities in the [NSM's Research Portal](#).